You're My Pet
4
Yayoi Ogawa

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KIMI WA PET

— 4 —

YAYOI OGAWA

小川彌生

You're My Pet

BY YAYOI OGAWA

VOL. 4

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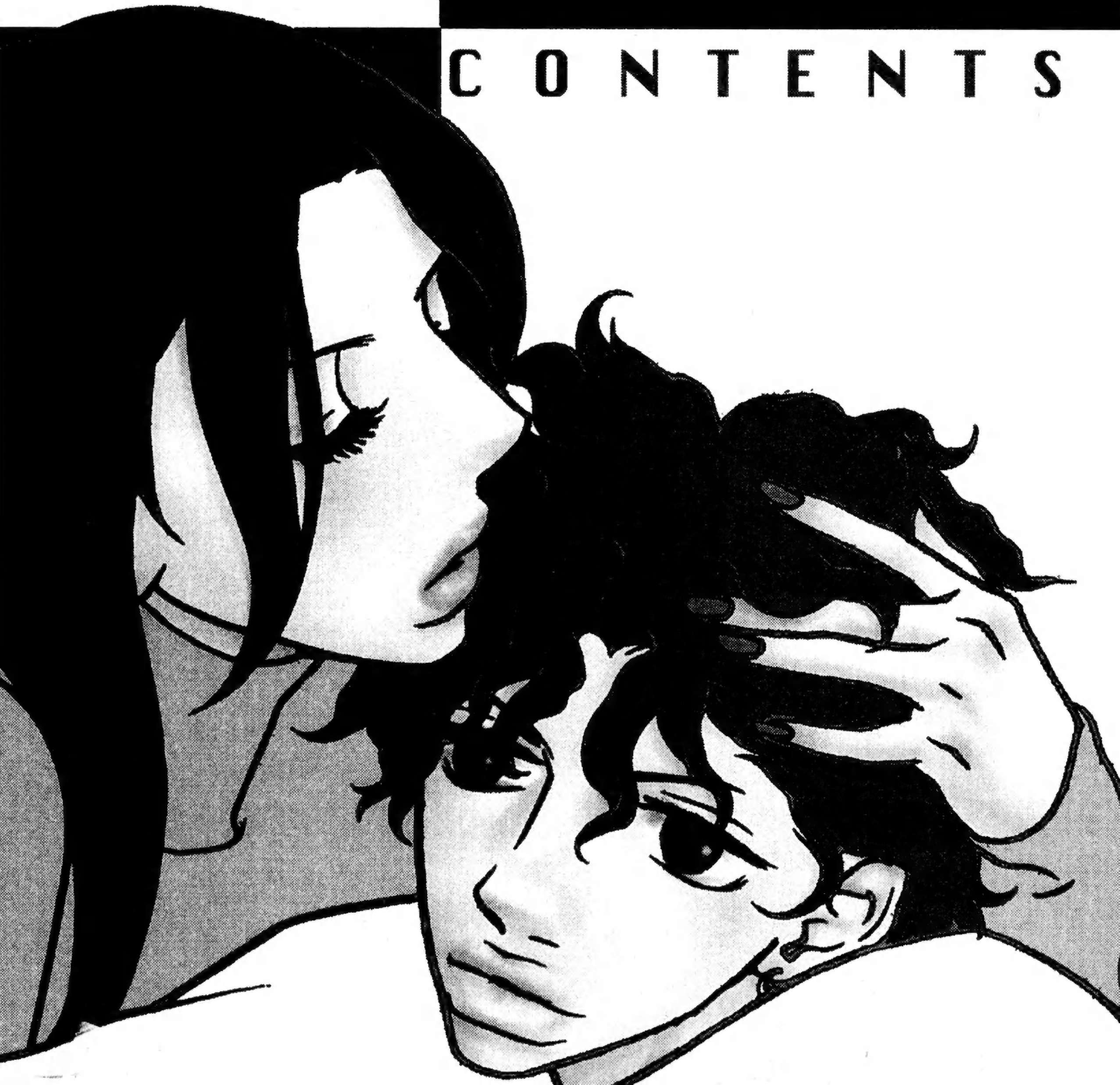
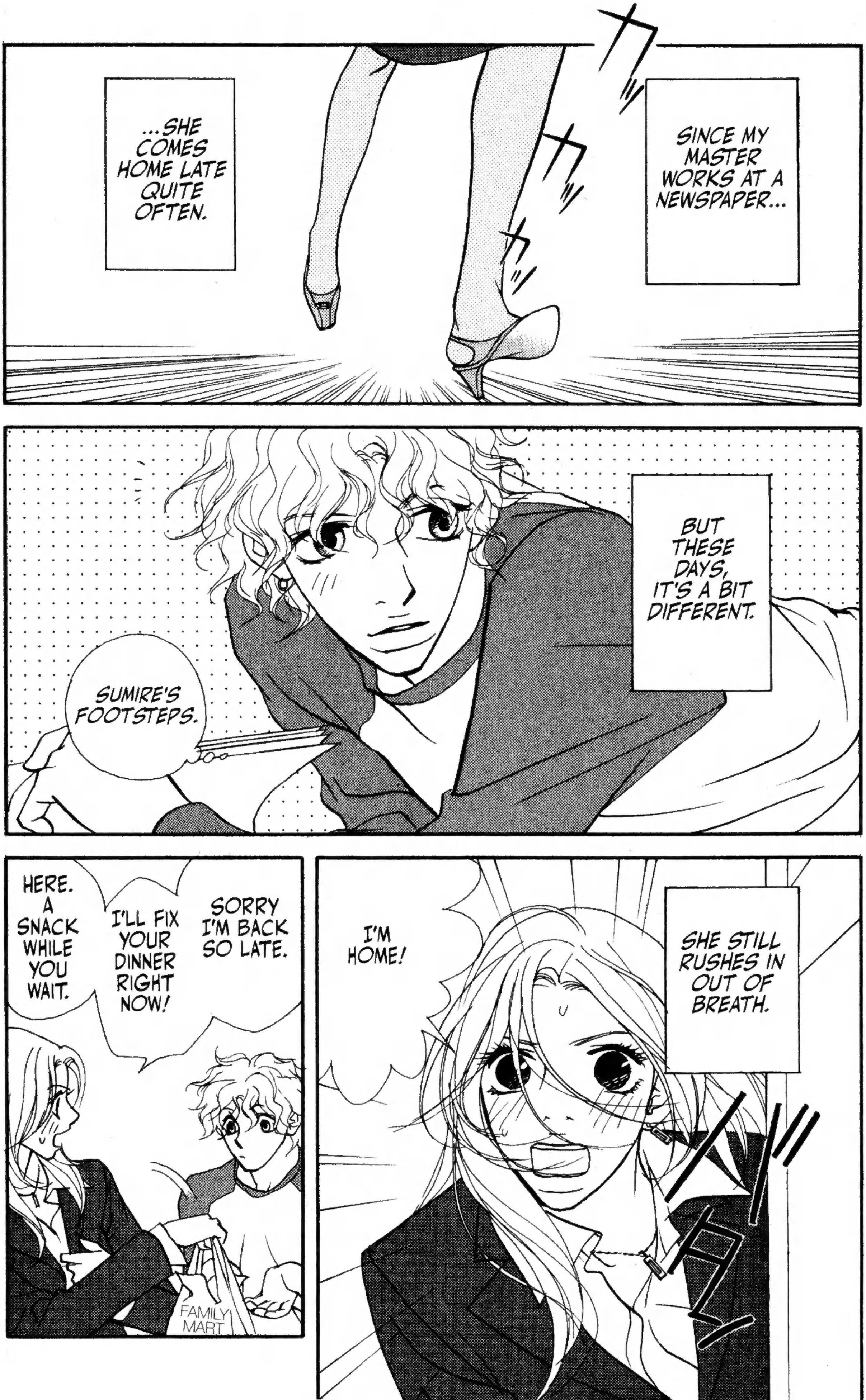


Rule 17
LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT I COULD DIE.
YET A FEW SECONDS LATER, I WAS THINKING ABOUT GROCERY SHOPPING AND A TRAIN TO CATCH.
I'M A STRANGE, FUNNY CREATURE.
...ARE YOU STILL GOING HOME?
I'M SORRY...
MY DOG IS WAITING FOR ME.
OH, YEAH... YOUR DOG.
WELL... SEE YOU AT WORK, THEN.


SINCE MY MASTER WORKS AT A NEWSPAPER...
...SHE COMES HOME LATE QUITE OFTEN.
BUT THESE DAYS, IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT.
SUMIRE'S FOOTSTEPS.
SHE STILL RUSHES IN OUT OF BREATH.
I'M HOME!
SORRY I'M BACK SO LATE.
I'LL FIX YOUR DINNER RIGHT NOW!
HERE. A SNACK WHILE YOU WAIT.
FAMILY MART

BUT THERE'S NO HUGGING OR PETTING ANYMORE.
SHE STILL BUYS ME TREATS.
YAHOOOO! CHOCO X, UMAIYO BO AND THICK-SLICED POTATO CHIPS!
I CAN REALLY HAVE ALL THIS?
SURE-- AFTER DINNER.
JUST ONE THING NOW-- DON'T OPEN THEM ALL AT ONCE!
HER CHEEKS ARE PINKER THAN USUAL TODAY.
AND SHE'S GOT A DIFFERENT SCENT THAN THE SOAP SHE USUALLY USES--"RUSH."
crash
NOT TO MENTION THE SLIGHT, LINGERING SCENT OF PHERO-MONES...
SO... HASUMI-KUN BEEN BUSY LATELY?

OUCH--!!! I CUT MY FINGER!
SHE'S FREAKING OUT MORE THAN I EXPECTED.
...HE'S BEEN STAYING OVERNIGHT AT WORK A LOT. NEVER TAKES THE DAY OFF ANYMORE.
THAT'S TRUE. EVER SINCE THE 9-11 ATTACKS...
I SEE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED AT HIS PLACE LONGER.
WH- WHY?
NOTHING... IT'S JUST THAT YOU TWO DON'T EVEN GO OUT ON WEEKENDS ANYMORE.
SO I FIGURED YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DATE.
lick
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
YOU KNOW YOU'D BE UPSET IF I DIDN'T COME HOME.

HERE YOU GO.
EH ...?
I MADE A KEY FOR YOU.
NOW MY PRINCESS CAN VISIT ME ANYTIME.
AH... THANK YOU!
PRIN-CESS...
THOUGH I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME MUCH LATELY...
HA HA
YEAH, YOU HARDLY EVER COME HOME...
BUT I CAN ALWAYS DO YOUR LAUNDRY OR SOMETHING.
EH?
NO... THAT'S NOT WHY I GAVE IT TO YOU...!
I KNOW, I KNOW.
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN BUSY WITH WORK LATELY.

OH.
MISS IWAYA...
AWWW...
OOPS--I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT!
OH!
HASUMI'S DESIRE TO MARRY SUMIRE JUST WENT UP TWO MORE POINTS.
WHAT IS IT?
IT WAS STUCK BETWEEN THE PAGES.
LONG TIME NO SEE...
THIS...IS MOMO THE FIRST.
SEE? HER HAIR LOOKS JUST LIKE YOURS.
UH, THOSE ARE HER EARS...

SHE DIED QUITE YOUNG...
ONLY LIVED TO BE ELEVEN.
AND SHE WAS REALLY QUIET...BUT SHE ALWAYS LISTENED TO ALL MY PROBLEMS.
I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID...
...THAT ALL MY STRESS JUST BUILT UP INSIDE HER...
SUMIRE'S TEARS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL.
BUT ME AND MOMO THE FIRST ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW IT.
SUMIRE... COULD YOU PLEASE SHAMPOO MY HAIR?
NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN COMFORT AND CHEER HER UP.
IT WAS SO WARM TODAY.

MAKES ME FEEL NOBLE ALL OF A SUDDEN...LIKE I COULD DIE JUST A LITTLE BIT EARLY.
MOMO--?
ARE YOU ASLEEP? I MADE US DESSERT.
FRUIT PUNCH WITH SHIRATAMA BALLS, MOMO...!

MMM... SMELLS LIKE SHAMPOO...
...SO FLUFFY...
ス
ク
HEY, MOMO... LISTEN TO ME.
MY GRANDPA WAS COMPARING ME TO MY SISTER AGAIN.
"SHINOBU DOES SO WELL IN JAPANESE--WHY CAN'T YOU?"
SO WHAT IF I DIDN'T GET 100% ON THE LAST TEST?!
LICK

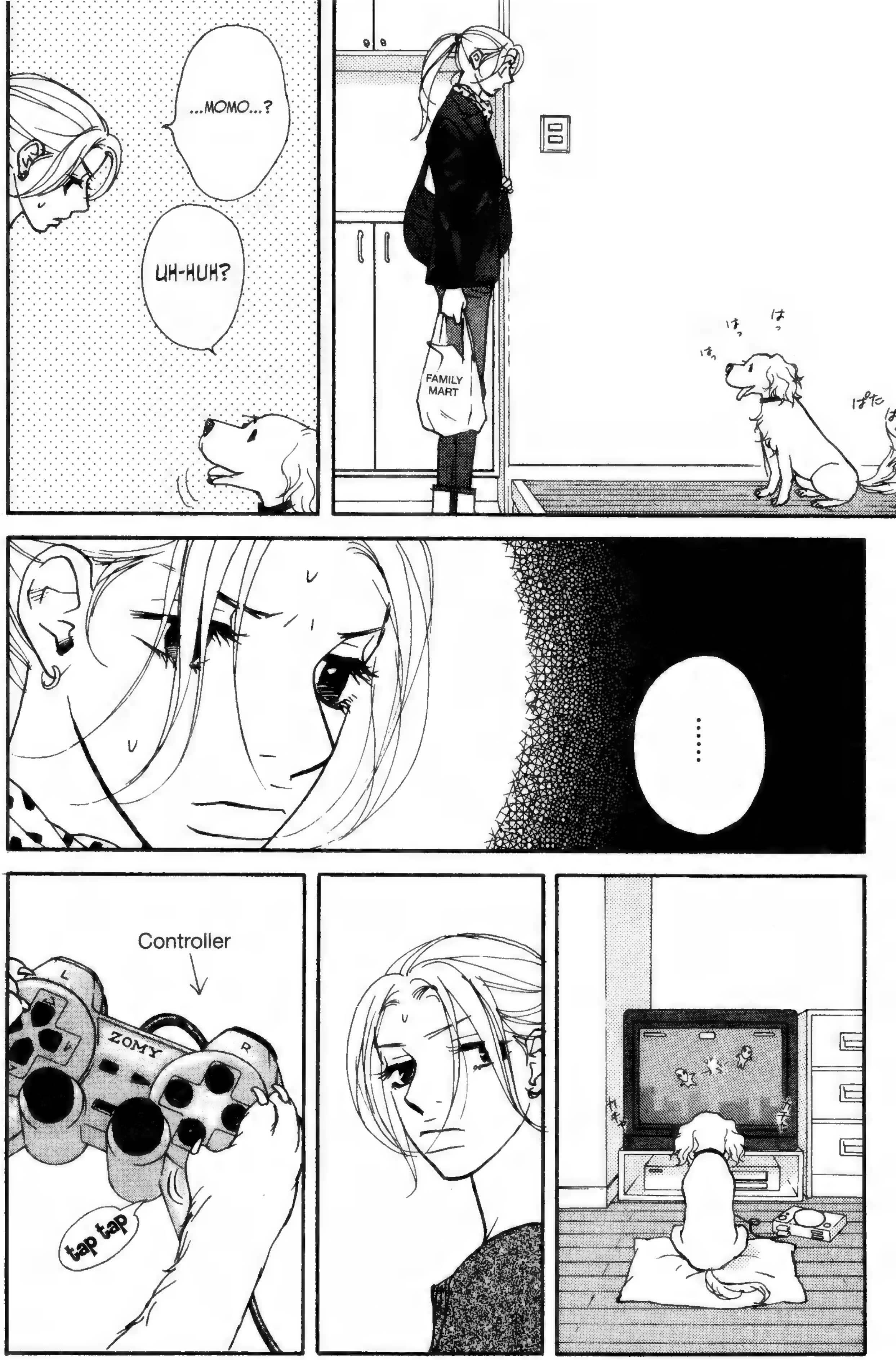
AHA HA! THAT TICKLES.
I'M ALL RIGHT. IT'S OKAY, MOMO!
GOOD GIRL, MOMO...
SUMIRE. SUMIRE?
WAKE UP.
YOU'LL CATCH COLD.
WHAT'S WRONG?

AH...
NOTHING.
GUESS I WAS HALF ASLEEP...
OOPS.
SEE? YOUR HANDS ARE COLD ALREADY.
FFFF... FFFF...
HUH?
UM...
NOTHING.
HEH.
THIS IS GONNA BE A FIXER-UPPER. ♥

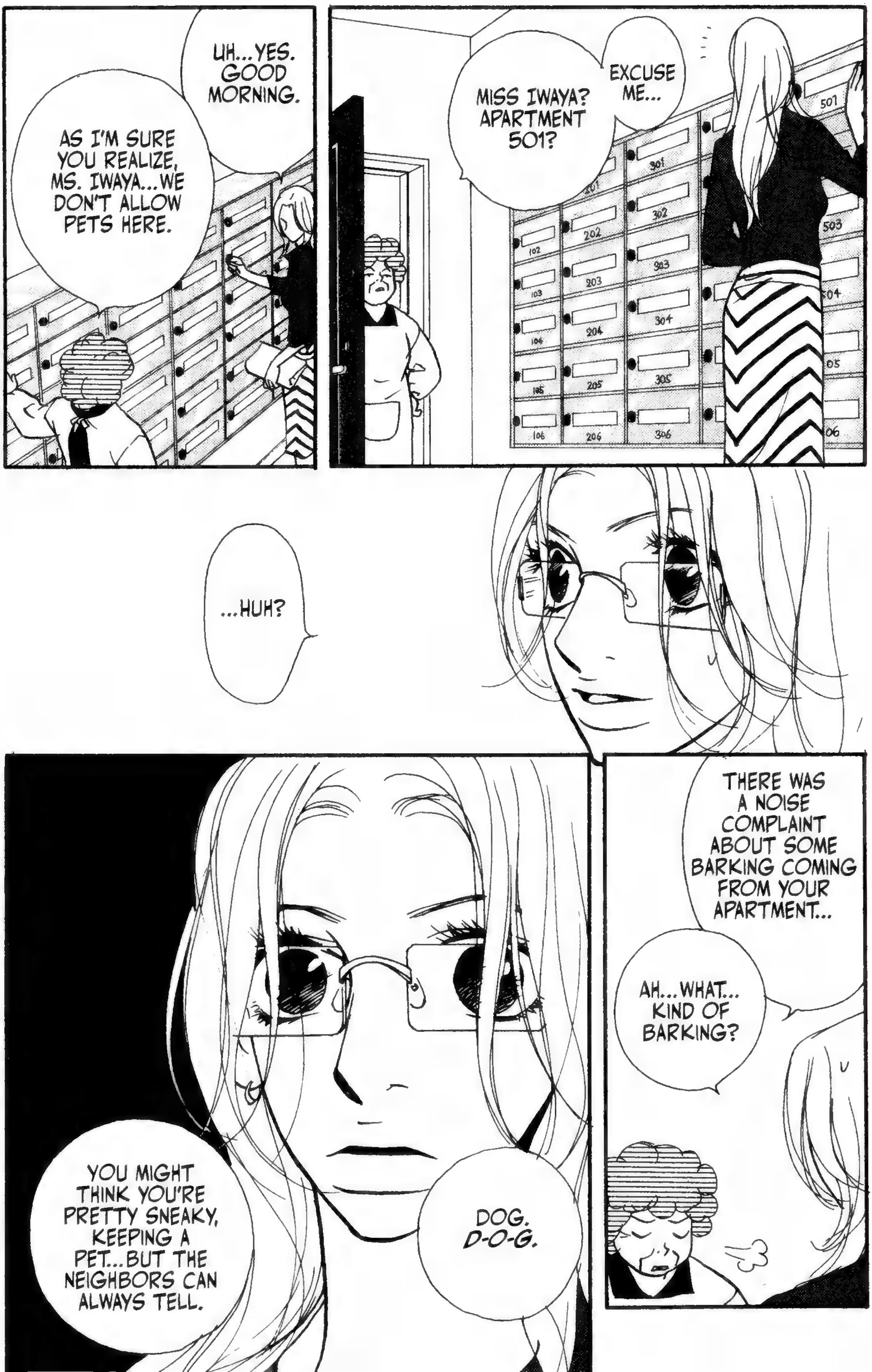
IT DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE A MAN LIVES HERE...
UPA!
サッカー
FABRIC SOFTENER... NOPE. NONE.
OH... THAT EARRING I THOUGHT I'D LOST.
IT'S MY LUCKY DAY! ♥
Cha-ra-ra-!
チャーラーラー
OH-- MISS IWAYA?
ARE YOU AT MY PLACE NOW?
I SEE. SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORK ON YOUR DAY OFF.
NO PROBLEM.
ACTUALLY, I'M KIND OF ENJOYING IT.
BY THE WAY, THERE'S A LITTLE BOX IN THE CABINET UNDER THE TV...
OH, YES...HERE IT IS.
IT'S A RING.

A...A RING...?
YEAH. REMEMBER THE ONE WE TOOK BACK TO THE STORE A WHILE AGO?
I GOT IT FIXED, BUT NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
THE CARTIER RING HE GAVE HER FOR WHITE DAY
HOW DOES IT FIT NOW?
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THAT...
WOW...IT'S PERFECT! ♥ JUST RIGHT FOR MY RING FINGER.
REALLY--? THAT'S GREAT! ♥
ANYWAY, I WON'T BE COMING HOME TONIGHT.
SO DON'T WORK TOO HARD OR TOO LATE.
OH... RIGHT!
SEE YOU LATER, THEN...
......

WHY IS HE PUTTING ALL THIS PRESSURE ON ME?!
WHY CAN'T HE JUST PROPOSE TO ME DIRECTLY?!
WAIT--THAT'S NO GOOD EITHER!! BECAUSE PROBABLY... DEFINITELY... I COULDN'T REFUSE!
*ARRGGGGGGHHHHH!
HASUMI'S PROPOSAL: DRAMATIZATION
LET'S GET MARRIED, HONEY! ♥
OOH! CAN WE HAVE A PET IN OUR NEW PLACE?
TWENTY-YEAR-OLD MALE HUMANS OKAY?
SURE, HONEY! ♥
NO. WAY.
UGH...I'M SO TIRED...
...IF ONLY HE REALLY WERE A DOG.
WELCOME HOME--!


...MOMO...?
UH-HUH?
FAMILY MART
はっ
はっ
はっ
......
Controller
ZOMY
tap tap

UH, SORRY... I'M PRETTY TIRED. GUESS I'LL JUST GO TO BED.
HUH--? WHAT ABOUT DINNER?
CAN'T YOU JUST EAT DOG FOOD?
WH- WHAT?!
はぐ
はぐ
はぐ
GOOD... HE LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN TODAY.
PHEW.
I'M GONNA GO GET THE PAPER.
OH-- I CAN DO THAT.
IT'S FINE. YOU GO AHEAD AND FINISH YOUR FOOD.


EXCUSE ME...
MISS IWAYA? APARTMENT 501?
UH...YES. GOOD MORNING.
AS I'M SURE YOU REALIZE, MS. IWAYA...WE DON'T ALLOW PETS HERE.
...HUH?
THERE WAS A NOISE COMPLAINT ABOUT SOME BARKING COMING FROM YOUR APARTMENT...
AH...WHAT... KIND OF BARKING?
DOG. *D-O-G.*
YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'RE PRETTY SNEAKY, KEEPING A PET...BUT THE NEIGHBORS CAN ALWAYS TELL.

HEY. WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
OH...I RAN INTO MY LANDLADY DOWNSTAIRS.
YOU KNOW, SHE SAID THE STRANGEST THING.
SHE ACCUSED ME OF HAVING A BARKING DOG.
A DOG?
YUP. THERE WAS A NOISE COMPLAINT.
HA HA HA!
SHE'S PROBABLY JUST MIXING YOU UP WITH SOME OTHER APARTMENT.
I HEAR A DOG SOMETIMES, TOO.
OR MAYBE...
DROP

...I LOOK LIKE A DOG TO HER.
HA HA!
MISS IWAYA?
OH-- SENPAI!
YOU OKAY?
OH, NO...I WAS JUST THINKING.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SENPAI HASUMI? YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY.
NAH... I'M DOING FINE.

VERY UNLIKE YOUNG, ELITE PROFESSIONALS!

......
...MOMO?
HM?
YOU'RE ...
...NOT A DOG, ARE YOU...?
CAN NO LONGER SEE MOMO'S TRUE FORM
......
...WHY? DO I LOOK LIKE A DOG?
YOU REALLY... DO...
......

TO THINK...UP UNTIL NOW, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO THOUGHT HE WAS HUMAN.
BUT HE WAS A DOG ALL ALONG...
...THAT MAKES ME CRAZY, DOESN'T IT?!
I'VE BEEN MAKING CONVERSATION WITH HIM AND EVERYTHING!
UH, SUMIRE? YOU LOOK KINDA PALE. MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO BED.
SHOULD I SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT THIS...?
BUT...HOW COULD I EXPLAIN...?
stress
stress
stress
WHIMPER...
HOPE SHE'S OKAY.
...C'MERE, MOMO.
IT'S PRETTY COLD TONIGHT...YOU WANNA SLEEP TOGETHER?
ぱた
ぱた
UH-- REALLY?

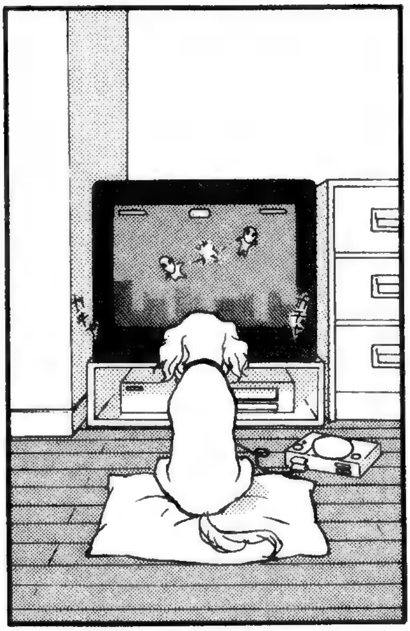
...I...
...REALLY LIKE SENPAI HASUMI...
WHAT AM I DOING?
I'VE BEEN ATTRACTED TO HIM FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.
SOMETIMES I'M AFRAID IT MIGHT ALL JUST BE A DREAM... EVEN WHEN I'M WITH HIM.
I DON'T USUALLY TALK TO HIM ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS.
BUT I DON'T WANNA GET MARRIED.
'CAUSE THEN...I COULDN'T BE WITH MOMO...
LICK

THEN... DON'T MARRY HIM.
MOMO...
I'LL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER.
......

MOMO-- YOU'RE HUMAN AGAIN!
AREN'T I ALWAYS.
WHOA!
GO BACK TO YOUR BED!
EH--?
BUT--YOU SAID WE SHOULD SLEEP TOGETHER--
しっ しっ
I CHANGED MY MIND--! NOW--GO--!
QUIT WHINING AND GET OUT!!
MUTTER MUTTER
TSK. YOU'RE SO SELFISH...
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM

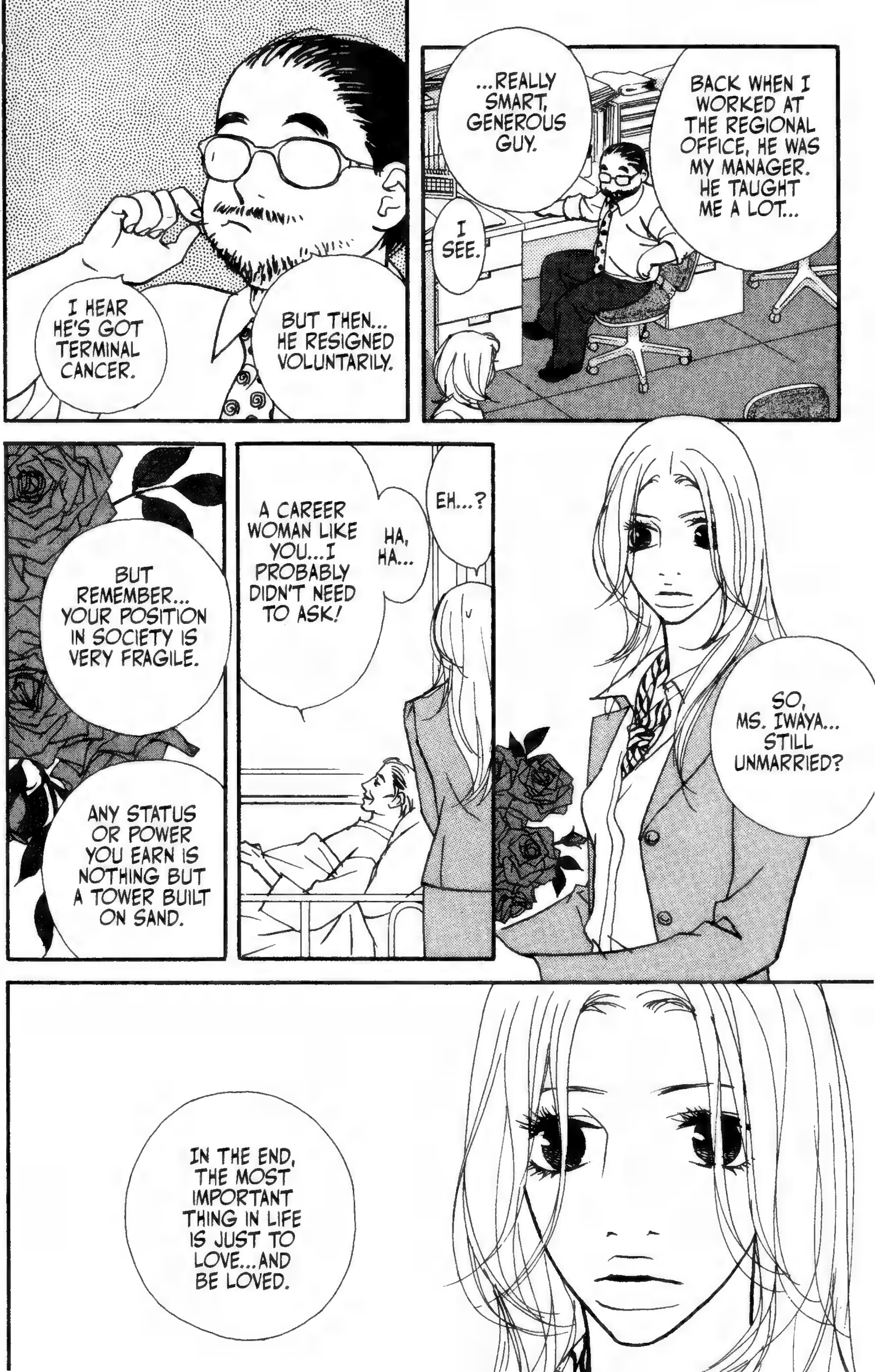
'CAUSE THEN...I COULDN'T BE WITH MOMO...
I'LL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER.
ばふっ
STUPID...!
DAMN HIM!
ALTHOUGH...
IT DOES FEEL LIKE A NAGGING PAIN...
...IS FINALLY... SOMEWHAT... OFF MY CHEST.
......
IT'S JUST AS WELL.

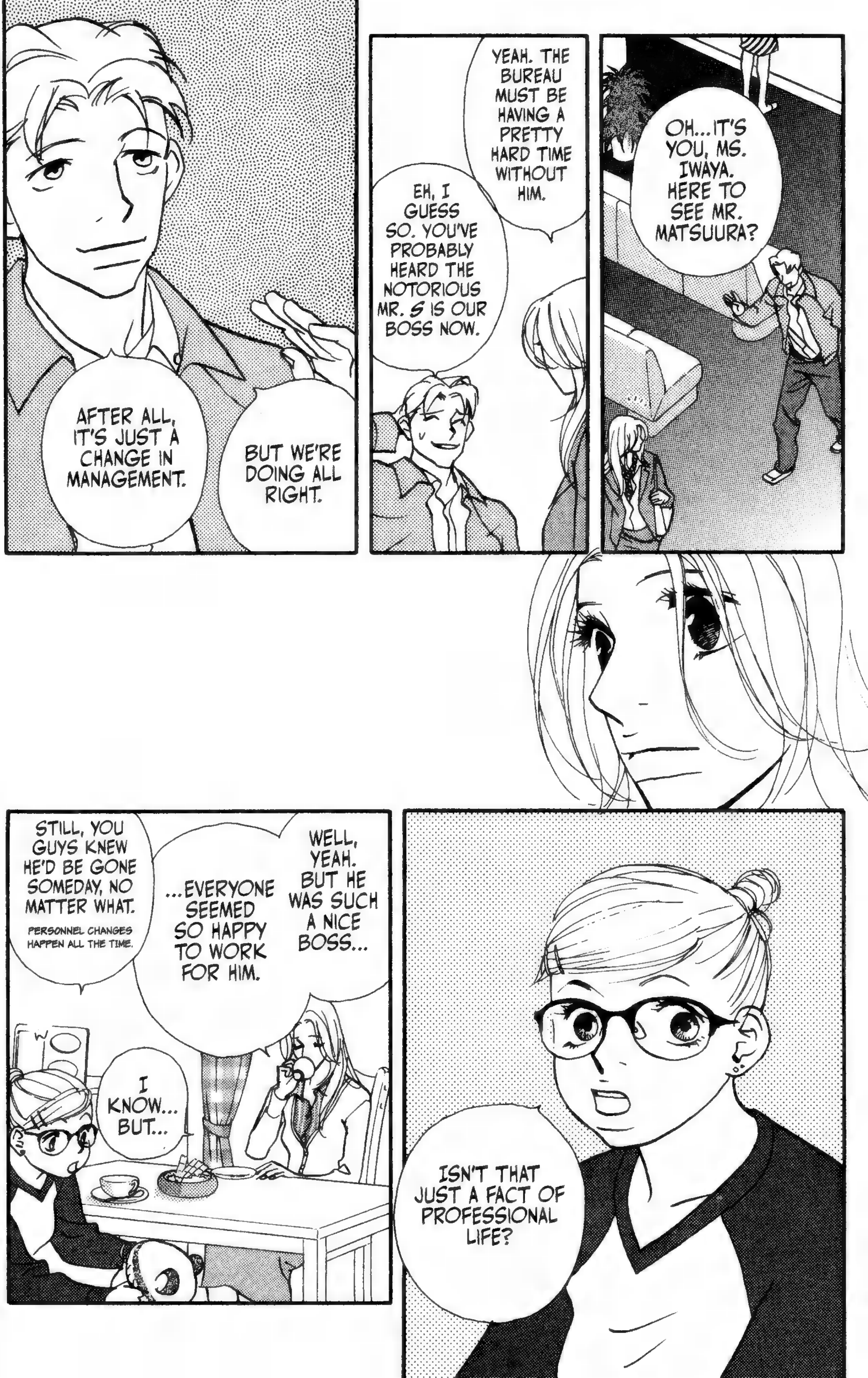
REALLY CURIOUS

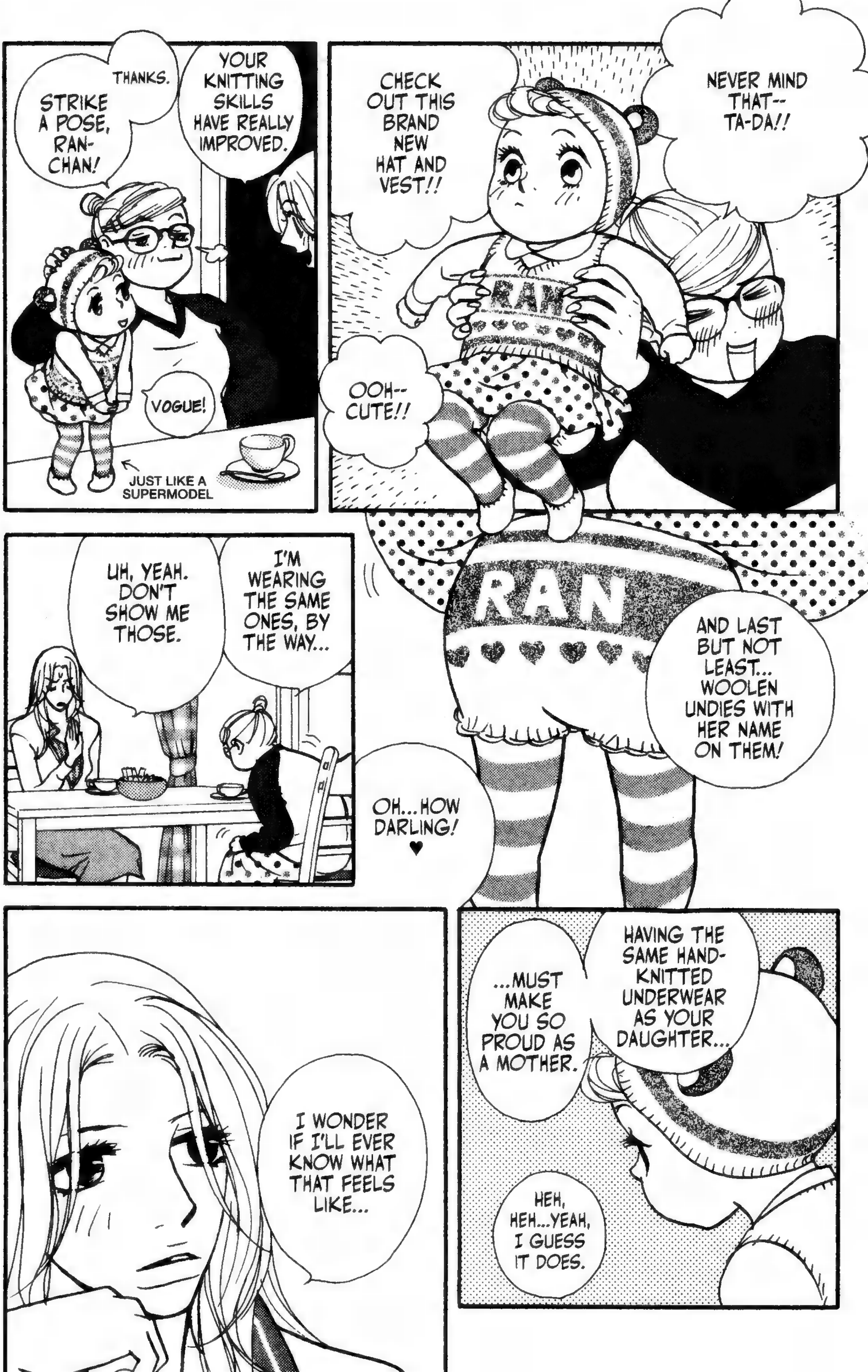


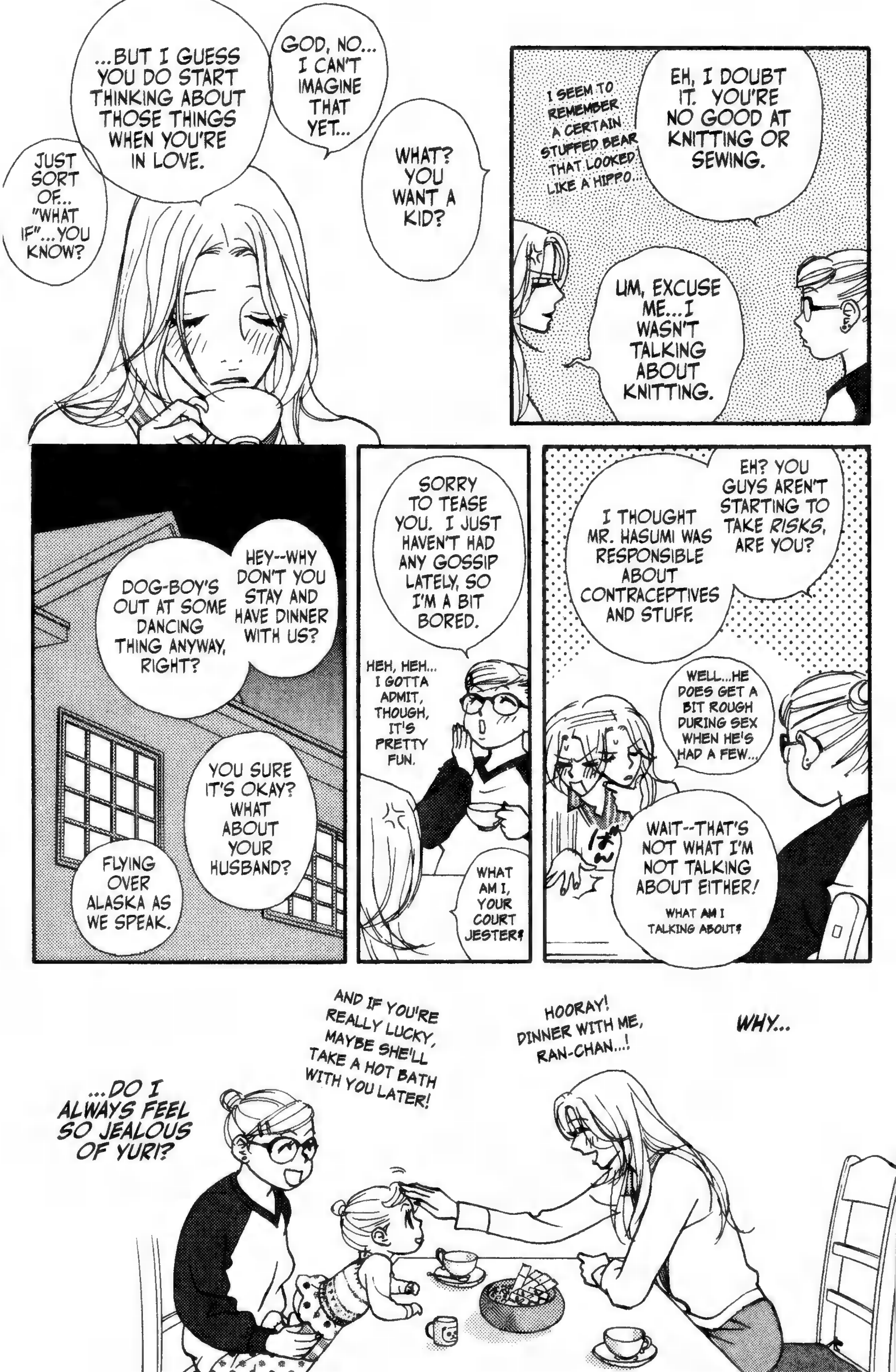
Rule 18
REMEMBERING YOUR OWN VALUE

SHE ALWAYS SEEMED TO WALK...
...JUST ONE STEP AHEAD.
COME IN.
HEY.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
WHERE'S MS. IWAYA TODAY?
SHE SAID SHE WAS GONNA STOP BY THE HOSPITAL TO SEE HER EX-BOSS.
OH--MR. MATSUURA FROM THE NARITA BUREAU, RIGHT?

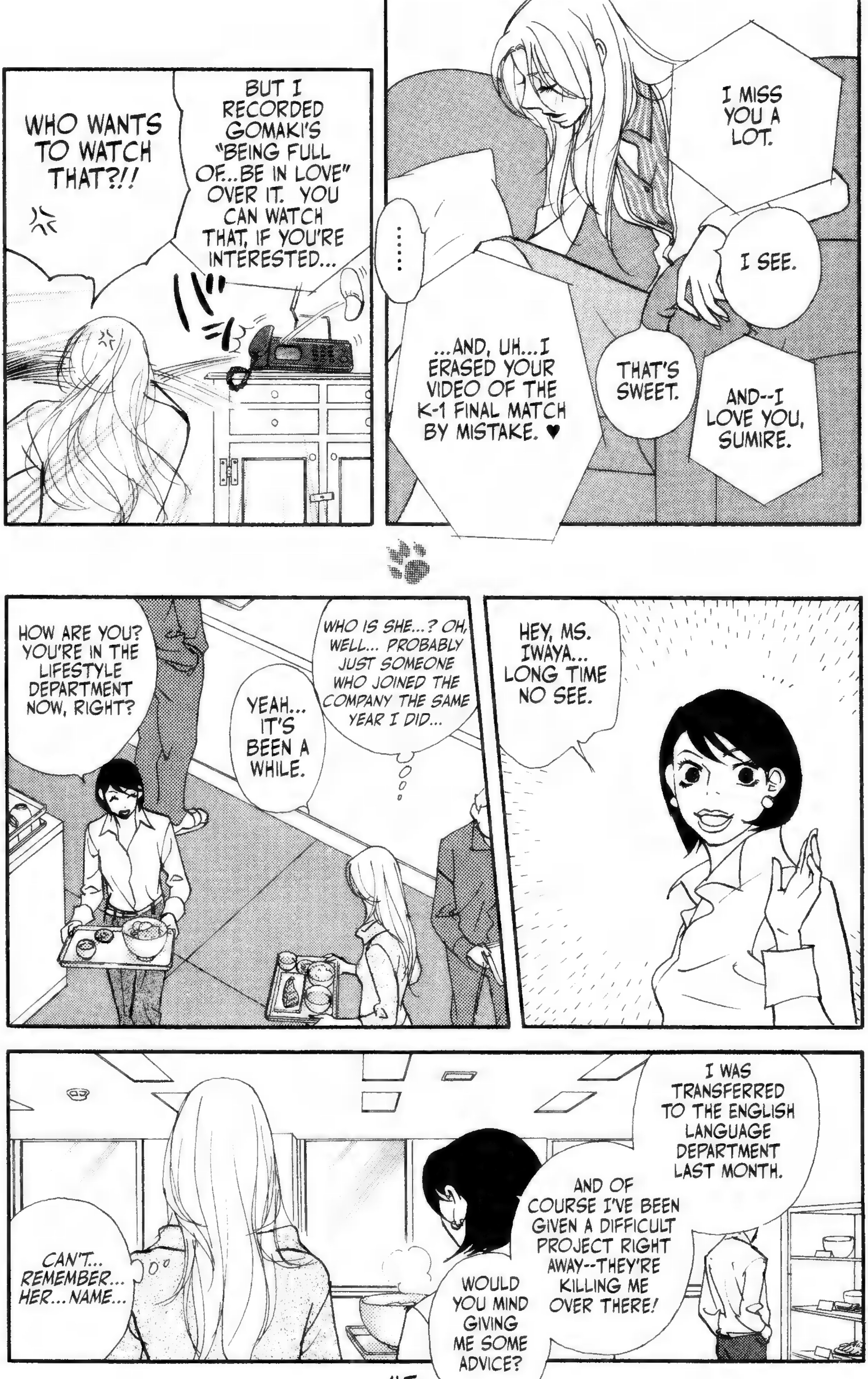

BACK WHEN I WORKED AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE, HE WAS MY MANAGER. HE TAUGHT ME A LOT...
...REALLY SMART, GENEROUS GUY.
I SEE.
BUT THEN... HE RESIGNED VOLUNTARILY.
I HEAR HE'S GOT TERMINAL CANCER.
SO, MS. IWAYA... STILL UNMARRIED?
EH...?
HA, HA...
A CAREER WOMAN LIKE YOU...I PROBABLY DIDN'T NEED TO ASK!
BUT REMEMBER... YOUR POSITION IN SOCIETY IS VERY FRAGILE.
ANY STATUS OR POWER YOU EARN IS NOTHING BUT A TOWER BUILT ON SAND.
IN THE END, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS JUST TO LOVE...AND BE LOVED.


OH...IT'S YOU, MS. IWAYA. HERE TO SEE MR. MATSUURA?
YEAH. THE BUREAU MUST BE HAVING A PRETTY HARD TIME WITHOUT HIM.
EH, I GUESS SO. YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THE NOTORIOUS MR. S IS OUR BOSS NOW.
BUT WE'RE DOING ALL RIGHT.
AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST A CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT.
ISN'T THAT JUST A FACT OF PROFESSIONAL LIFE?
WELL, YEAH. BUT HE WAS SUCH A NICE BOSS...
...EVERYONE SEEMED SO HAPPY TO WORK FOR HIM.
STILL, YOU GUYS KNEW HE'D BE GONE SOMEDAY, NO MATTER WHAT.
PERSONNEL CHANGES HAPPEN ALL THE TIME.
I KNOW... BUT...


YOUR KNITTING SKILLS HAVE REALLY IMPROVED.
THANKS.
STRIKE A POSE, RAN-CHAN!
VOGUE!
JUST LIKE A SUPERMODEL
NEVER MIND THAT-- TA-DA!!
CHECK OUT THIS BRAND NEW HAT AND VEST!!
OOH-- CUTE!!
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST... WOOLEN UNDIES WITH HER NAME ON THEM!
RAN
OH...HOW DARLING! ♥
I'M WEARING THE SAME ONES, BY THE WAY...
UH, YEAH. DON'T SHOW ME THOSE.
HAVING THE SAME HAND-KNITTED UNDERWEAR AS YOUR DAUGHTER...
...MUST MAKE YOU SO PROUD AS A MOTHER.
HEH, HEH...YEAH, I GUESS IT DOES.
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER KNOW WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE...


WHAT? YOU WANT A KID?
GOD, NO... I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT YET...
...BUT I GUESS YOU DO START THINKING ABOUT THOSE THINGS WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE.
JUST SORT OF... "WHAT IF"... YOU KNOW?
EH, I DOUBT IT. YOU'RE NO GOOD AT KNITTING OR SEWING.
I SEEM TO REMEMBER A CERTAIN STUFFED BEAR THAT LOOKED LIKE A HIPPO...
UM, EXCUSE ME... I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT KNITTING.
EH? YOU GUYS AREN'T STARTING TO TAKE *RISKS*, ARE YOU?
I THOUGHT MR. HASUMI WAS RESPONSIBLE ABOUT CONTRACEPTIVES AND STUFF.
WELL...HE DOES GET A BIT ROUGH DURING SEX WHEN HE'S HAD A FEW...
WAIT--THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT EITHER!
WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT?
SORRY TO TEASE YOU. I JUST HAVEN'T HAD ANY GOSSIP LATELY, SO I'M A BIT BORED.
HEH, HEH... I GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH, IT'S PRETTY FUN.
WHAT AM I, YOUR COURT JESTER?
HEY--WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND HAVE DINNER WITH US?
DOG-BOY'S OUT AT SOME DANCING THING ANYWAY, RIGHT?
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY? WHAT ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND?
FLYING OVER ALASKA AS WE SPEAK.
WHY...
HOORAY! DINNER WITH ME, RAN-CHAN...!
AND IF YOU'RE REALLY LUCKY, MAYBE SHE'LL TAKE A HOT BATH WITH YOU LATER!
...DO I ALWAYS FEEL SO JEALOUS OF YURI?

IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
UNLIKE ME, YURI WAS ALWAYS PRETTY, CUTE AND POPULAR.
A GIRL WHO COULD GET WHATEVER SHE WANTED.
SHE DROVE SO MANY GUYS CRAZY...
BYE-BYE!
...YET SHE GOT MARRIED TO A HANDSOME MAN JUST LIKE THAT. WHICH WAS EVEN COOLER.
NO--! YURI--!
I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER BE LIKE HER...
One. New. Message.
UH, HEY-- IT'S MOMO. HOW ARE YOU?
I'M GOOD...
I'M GOOD, TOO. UH...
SO MANY "UH"S.
I GOT LUCKY TODAY--I MET A REALLY FAMOUS DANCER!
AND, UH, I MIGHT BE SELECTED AS A FINALIST. SO I WON'T BE BACK FOR ANOTHER THREE DAYS.
DO YOU MISS ME, SUMIRE?
...A BIT.

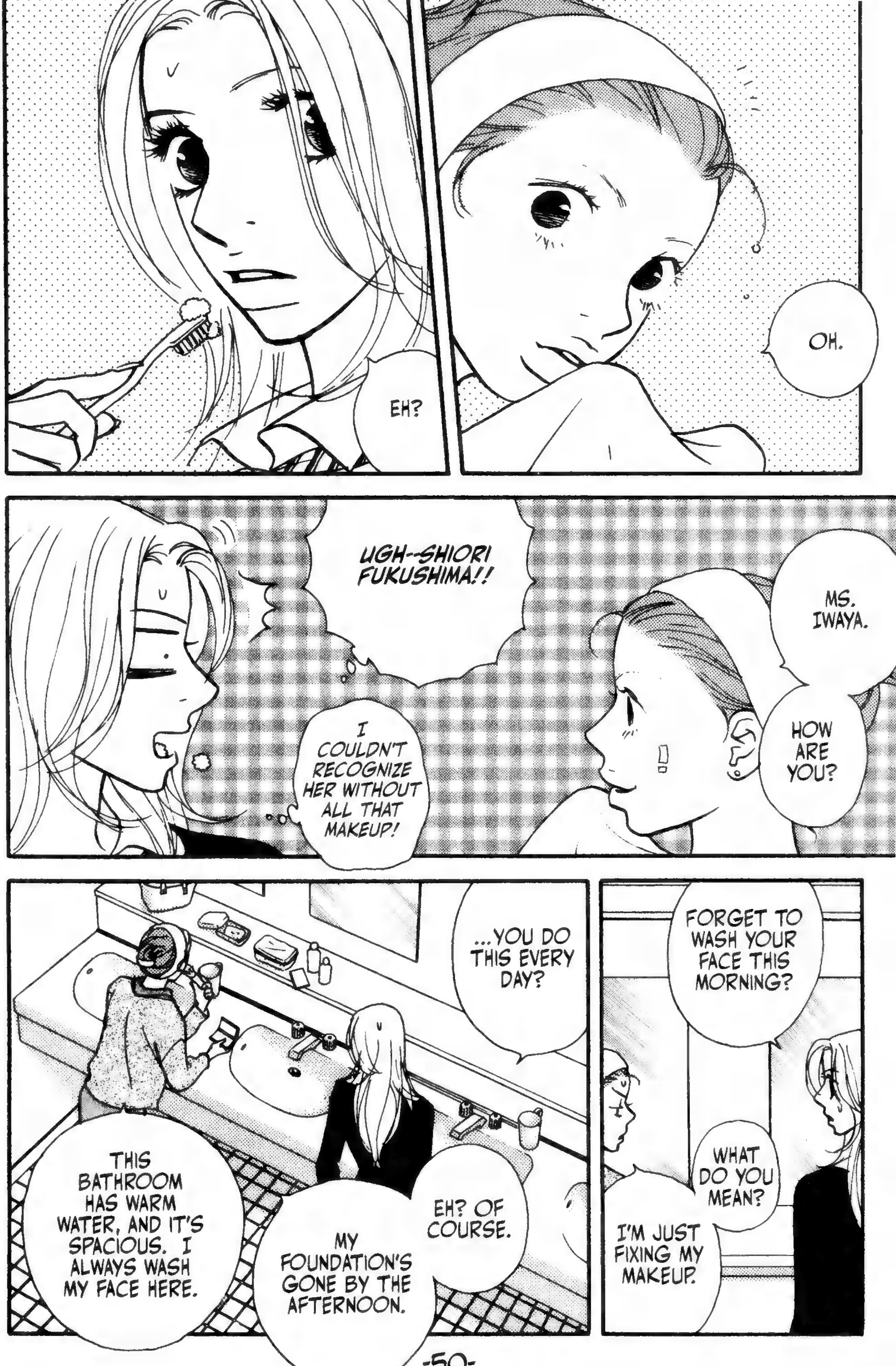

I MISS YOU A LOT.
I SEE.
AND--I LOVE YOU, SUMIRE.
THAT'S SWEET.
...AND, UH...I ERASED YOUR VIDEO OF THE K-1 FINAL MATCH BY MISTAKE. ♥
......
BUT I RECORDED GOMAKI'S "BEING FULL OF...BE IN LOVE" OVER IT. YOU CAN WATCH THAT, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED...
WHO WANTS TO WATCH THAT?!!
HEY, MS. IWAYA... LONG TIME NO SEE.
HOW ARE YOU? YOU'RE IN THE LIFESTYLE DEPARTMENT NOW, RIGHT?
YEAH... IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
WHO IS SHE...? OH, WELL... PROBABLY JUST SOMEONE WHO JOINED THE COMPANY THE SAME YEAR I DID...
I WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT LAST MONTH.
AND OF COURSE I'VE BEEN GIVEN A DIFFICULT PROJECT RIGHT AWAY--THEY'RE KILLING ME OVER THERE!
WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME SOME ADVICE?
CAN'T... REMEMBER... HER... NAME...

SO YOU KNOW THAT AUTHOR--MR. BLIPPETY BLEEP?
THE ONE WHO WRITES THOSE REALLY METAPHYSICAL BOOKS?
NOT THE TYPE YOU'D WANT TO DEAL WITH IF YOU HAD A CHOICE. REALLY HATES THE MASS MEDIA.
SO OF COURSE I'M ASSIGNED TO INTERVIEW HIM...
WAIT...HER LAST NAME IS...YAMA-SOMETHING.
WELL...DID YOU TRY CONTACTING BLOOPO BLIPKAWA?
UH--WHO?
HE'S A PROFESSOR AT TOKYO UNIVERSITY. WROTE A VERY INFLUENTIAL BOOK ABOUT BLAH...
BLEEP REALLY RELIES ON HIM--EVEN TOOK HIM ON AS AN ADVISOR WHEN HIS BOOKS WERE BEING TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.
ANYWAY, I'VE HEARD OF A MAGAZINE WRITER WHO WAS ABLE TO SET UP AN INTERVIEW WITH BLEEP THROUGH BLIPKAWA.
OR IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, BLIPKAWA MAY STILL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU AN INTERESTING COMMENT ABOUT BLEEP.
OH, GREAT. I'LL TRY THAT!
YOU'RE SO SMART, MS. IWAYA!
I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE YOU!!
EH...
clasp
HUH?
I DIDN'T REALIZE... WE WERE FRIENDS.
LET'S GO OUT FOR DRINKS SOMETIME! I'LL CALL YOU.
SEE YA!
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER HER NAME...

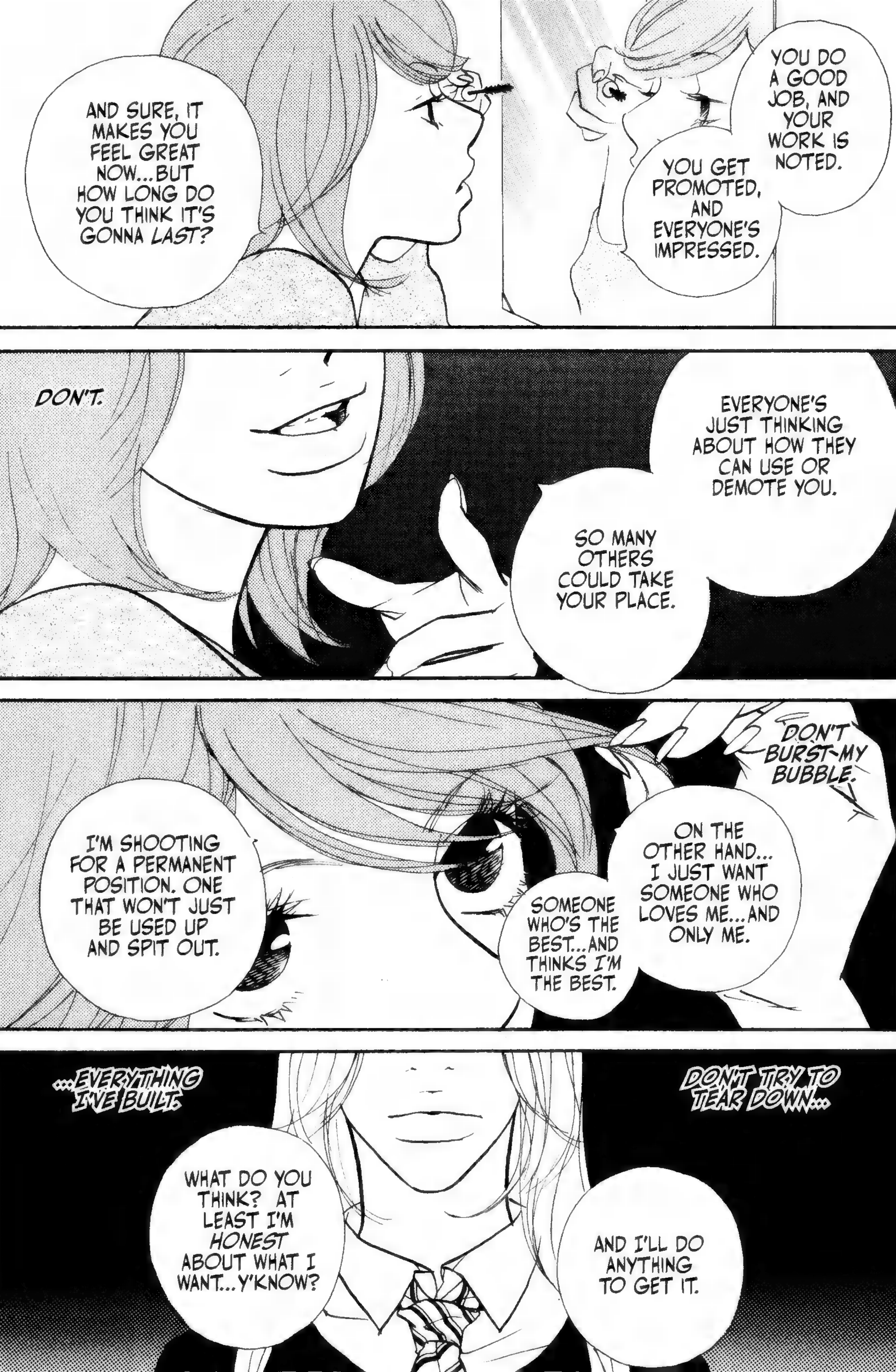
EH. WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S ACTUALLY GONNA CALL ME.
YOU'RE SO SMART, MS. IWAYA!
QUITE A HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS.
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT BESIDES BRAINS?
NOTHING OTHER THAN THAT, I'D SAY...
...NOTHING OF VALUE, ANYWAY.
DEMON HASUMI
!!

OH--I'M SORRY. DID I WAKE YOU?
......
...IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
A SCARY ONE...
JUST GOT A CALL FROM WORK.
THEY'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH A REUTERS DISPATCH.
BUT I TOLD 'EM I COULDN'T LEAVE, 'CAUSE *YOU'RE* STAYING OVERNIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO MONTHS!
WHAT?!
I'M KIDDING.
I TOLD THEM TO TAKE CARE OF IT THEMSEVES.
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
IT'S FINE. THE SYSTEM IS BACKED UP.
EVEN IF A BOMB WERE DROPPED...I WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU.
......!

IT MAKES ME HAPPY WHEN HE WANTS ME.
HIS SWEET WORDS AND HANDS TELL ME I'M VALUABLE TO HIM, AT LEAST.
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I COOK FOR HIM.
...ARE YOU SLEEPY?
...NOT REALLY...
BUT PLEASE, GO EASY ON ME TODAY...
BACK TROUBLES, MS. IWAYA?
ONLY SLEPT 2 HOURS
NOPE. DON'T MIND ME...
PUSH
creak
WOMEN
女子
scrub
scrub
WASHING HER FACE AT LUNCH-TIME...?
CLEANSING CREAM... TONER...
...WOW, SHE BROUGHT THE WORKS.
scrub
scrub

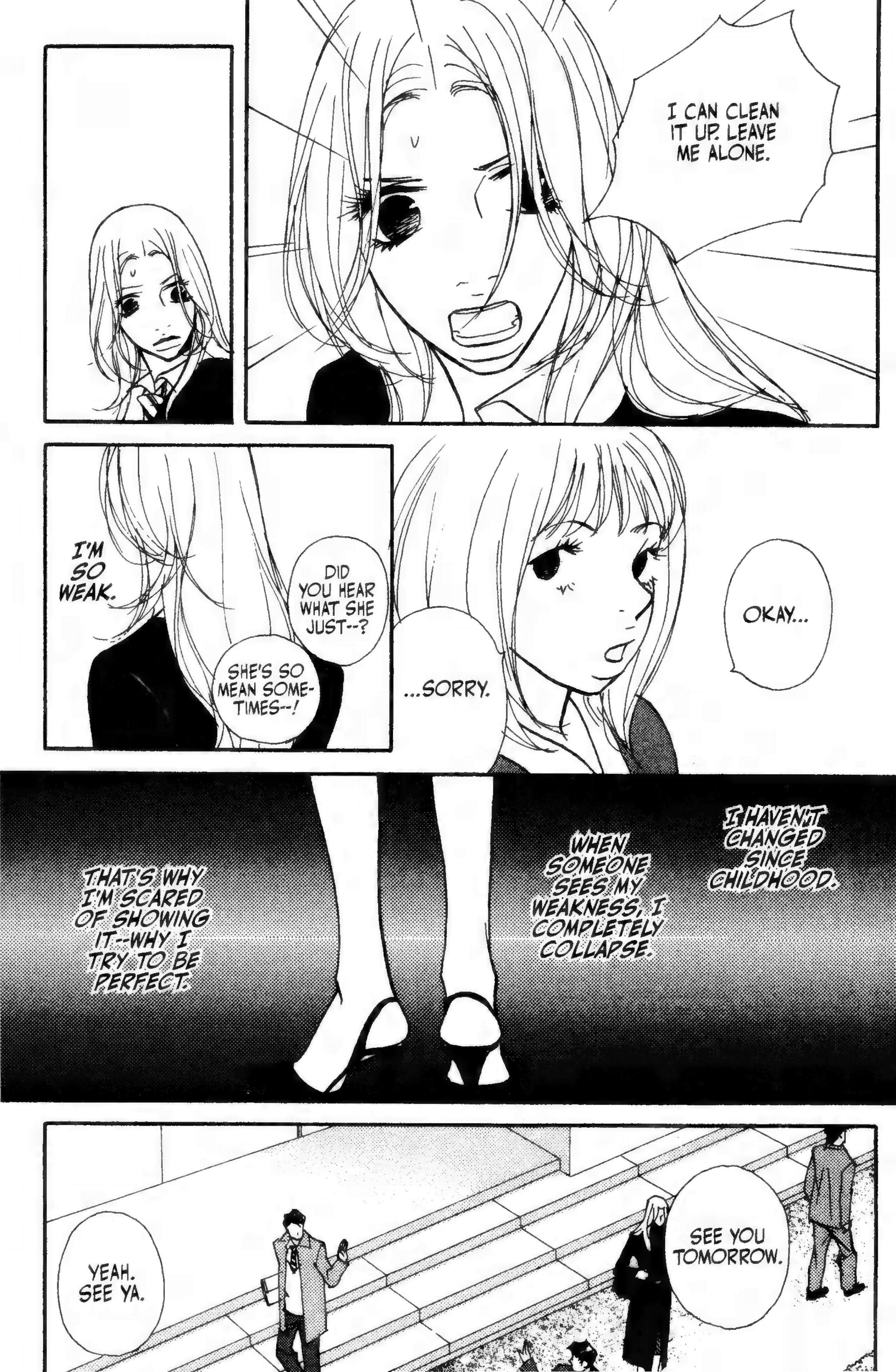

OH.
EH?
MS. IWAYA.
HOW ARE YOU?
UGH--SHIORI FUKUSHIMA!!
I COULDN'T RECOGNIZE HER WITHOUT ALL THAT MAKEUP!
FORGET TO WASH YOUR FACE THIS MORNING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M JUST FIXING MY MAKEUP.
...YOU DO THIS EVERY DAY?
EH? OF COURSE.
MY FOUNDATION'S GONE BY THE AFTERNOON.
THIS BATHROOM HAS WARM WATER, AND IT'S SPACIOUS. I ALWAYS WASH MY FACE HERE.

MIGHT HELP YOU LOOK YOUNGER.
YOU SHOULD TRY IT, MS. IWAYA.
23 YEARS OLD
28 YEARS OLD
SADLY, I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH SPARE TIME.
BESIDES, I DON'T SLATHER MYSELF WITH MAKEUP LIKE YOU DO.
HMPH...
WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M MAKING AN EFFORT TO GET A MAN.
YOU MIGHT NOT THINK YOU NEED TO, AS AN ELITE...
...BUT AS A WOMAN...
...YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER IT, EH?

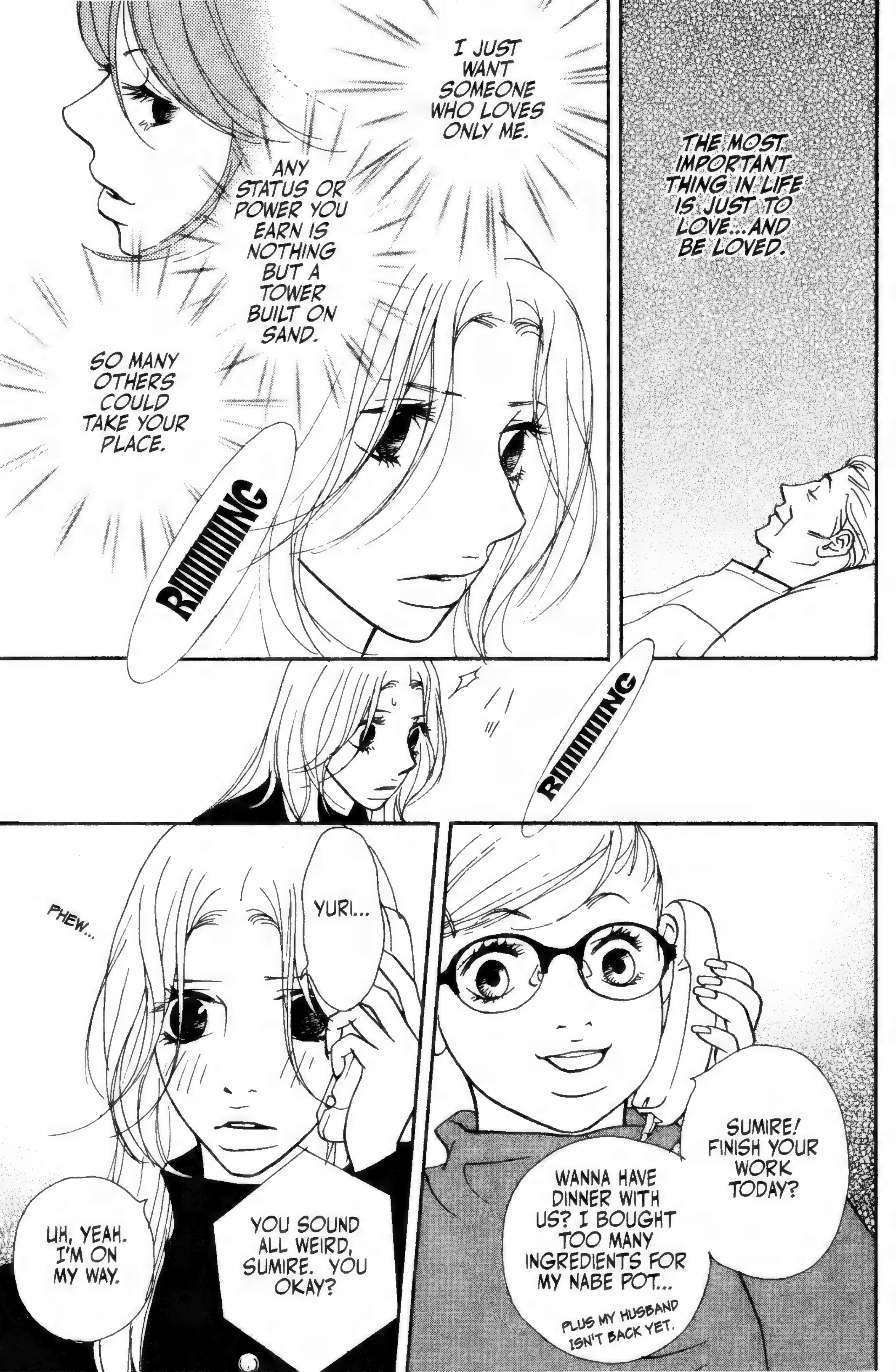

YOU DO A GOOD JOB, AND YOUR WORK IS NOTED.
YOU GET PROMOTED, AND EVERYONE'S IMPRESSED.
AND SURE, IT MAKES YOU FEEL GREAT NOW...BUT HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'S GONNA *LAST*?
EVERYONE'S JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW THEY CAN USE OR DEMOTE YOU.
SO MANY OTHERS COULD TAKE YOUR PLACE.
DON'T.
DON'T BURST MY BUBBLE.
ON THE OTHER HAND... I JUST WANT SOMEONE WHO LOVES ME...AND ONLY ME.
SOMEONE WHO'S THE BEST...AND THINKS *I'M* THE BEST.
I'M SHOOTING FOR A PERMANENT POSITION. ONE THAT WON'T JUST BE USED UP AND SPIT OUT.
DON'T TRY TO TEAR DOWN...
...EVERYTHING I'VE BUILT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? AT LEAST I'M *HONEST* ABOUT WHAT I WANT...Y'KNOW?
AND I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET IT.

...I AM WHO I AM.
AND IF EVERYONE'S MY ENEMY...I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGHT.
...HMPH.
YOU'RE NOT THAT STRONG.
OH, MS. IWAYA--LINE ONE.
HELLO? YES, THIS IS SHE. OH, YES...
THANKS FOR YOUR TIME THE OTHER DAY.
MM-HMM.
WHAT ...?
WHAT?!

SEE THAT HEADSHOT? THE CAPTION IS WRONG.
WELL...THEY'RE BOTH ABOUT THE SAME AGE AND LOOK...THE DRAFT WAS EVEN PASSED BY THE PROOFREADERS!
IT WENT TO *PRINT* LIKE THAT, MS. IWAYA.
...YEAH. I GUESS IT DID...IF IT WASN'T CAUGHT UNTIL NOW.
SUCH A SIMPLE, STUPID ERROR.
SORRY ...MY MISTAKE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I CAN HEAR YOU.
MS. IWAYA MADE A *MISTAKE* ...?
YEAH...WISH I HAD MY VIDEO CAMERA.
SNICKER
SNICKER
IGNORE IT. CALM DOWN.
tap
WHERE'S THAT RETRACTION TEMPLATE ...?
WHOOPSIE!
BETTER PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, MS. IWAYA.

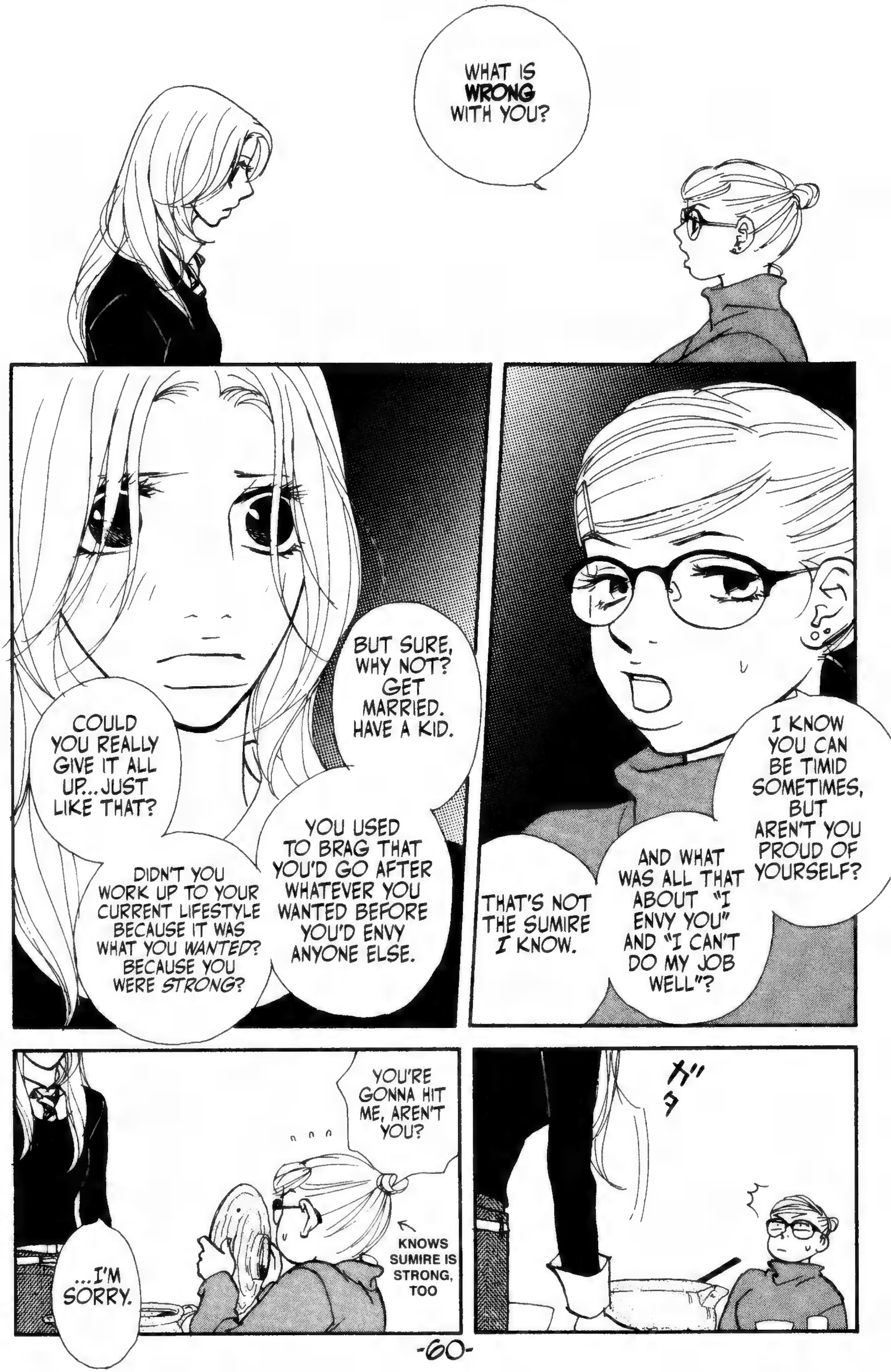

I CAN CLEAN IT UP. LEAVE ME ALONE.
OKAY...
...SORRY.
DID YOU HEAR WHAT SHE JUST--?
SHE'S SO MEAN SOME-TIMES--!
I'M SO WEAK.
I HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE CHILDHOOD.
WHEN SOMEONE SEES MY WEAKNESS, I COMPLETELY COLLAPSE.
THAT'S WHY I'M SCARED OF SHOWING IT--WHY I TRY TO BE PERFECT.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
YEAH. SEE YA.

TO DO THAT, I'LL DO ANYTHING.
AS A WOMAN...
...YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER IT, EH?
THEY'RE HEADING HOME IN THE SAME DIRECTION...MAYBE THEY'LL RUN INTO EACH OTHER AT THE GAS STATION... AND THEN...
...NO. NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT IT... NOPE...
DEEP CONCENTRATION
I HEARD MR. MATSUURA PASSED AWAY.
MR. MATSUURA...
HIS FUNERAL SERVICE IS THIS SUNDAY.


THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS JUST TO LOVE...AND BE LOVED.
I JUST WANT SOMEONE WHO LOVES ONLY ME.
ANY STATUS OR POWER YOU EARN IS NOTHING BUT A TOWER BUILT ON SAND.
SO MANY OTHERS COULD TAKE YOUR PLACE.
RIIIIIIING
RIIIIIIING
SUMIRE! FINISH YOUR WORK TODAY?
WANNA HAVE DINNER WITH US? I BOUGHT TOO MANY INGREDIENTS FOR MY NABE POT...
PLUS MY HUSBAND ISN'T BACK YET.
YURI...
YOU SOUND ALL WEIRD, SUMIRE. YOU OKAY?
UH, YEAH. I'M ON MY WAY.
PHEW...

I SEE...
...SO RAN-CHAN'S ALLERGIC TO FLOUR?
YEAH. I HAD NO IDEA!
HER SYMPTOMS ARE QUITE MILD... BUT THEY SAID SHE SHOULDN'T EAT FLOUR ANYMORE.
SO I'VE BEEN IMPROVISING SOME HOMEMADE SNACKS...
I DON'T CUT CORNERS, ESPECIALLY WITH MY OWN CHILD!
RAISING KIDS SOUNDS LIKE SO MUCH WORK.
WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY...
THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A GOOD MOTHER.

YEAH. IT IS REWARDING.
......
I ENVY YOU, YURI.
HUH?
YOU'RE STRONG... AND YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT SOMEONE WHO RELIES ON YOU.
ME, ON THE OTHER HAND...I GET TOSSED IN AND OUT OF JOBS ANYONE COULD DO.
AND I CAN'T EVEN DO THOSE WELL. IT'S MADDENING.
SOMETIMES I THINK I SHOULD JUST GET MARRIED AND HAVE A BABY.
...SUMIRE?
YOU THINK THEN I COULD BE LIKE YOU?
SUMIRE.
I COULD BAKE COOKIES FOR MY KIDS, AND--
SUMIRE.


WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
I KNOW YOU CAN BE TIMID SOMETIMES, BUT AREN'T YOU PROUD OF YOURSELF?
AND WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT "I ENVY YOU" AND "I CAN'T DO MY JOB WELL"?
THAT'S NOT THE SUMIRE I KNOW.
BUT SURE, WHY NOT? GET MARRIED. HAVE A KID.
COULD YOU REALLY GIVE IT ALL UP... JUST LIKE THAT?
YOU USED TO BRAG THAT YOU'D GO AFTER WHATEVER YOU WANTED BEFORE YOU'D ENVY ANYONE ELSE.
DIDN'T YOU WORK UP TO YOUR CURRENT LIFESTYLE BECAUSE IT WAS WHAT YOU WANTED? BECAUSE YOU WERE STRONG?
ガタ
YOU'RE GONNA HIT ME, AREN'T YOU?
KNOWS SUMIRE IS STRONG, TOO
...I'M SORRY.

SHE'S...
...ALWAYS RIGHT.
I'M SORRY.
GOING HOME NOW.
WE NEVER HAVE ACTUAL FIGHTS...
...BUT STILL, SOMEHOW, I ALWAYS LOSE.
WHY... WHY...
...CAN'T I KEEP MY COOL?
clack
WELCOME HOME!

HEH, HEH...
I BLEW OFF A PARTY AND CAME HOME EARLY. ♥
...SUMIRE...?
sniff
WHOA-- WHAT'S WRONG?
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?!
WAIT--I SHOULDN'T BE ON TOP OF YOU LIKE THIS!
I'M SORRY!!

hugggg
MY WEAKNESS...
...MY LACK OF COOL.
I FORGOT. THERE IS SOMEONE I CAN SHOW EVERYTHING.

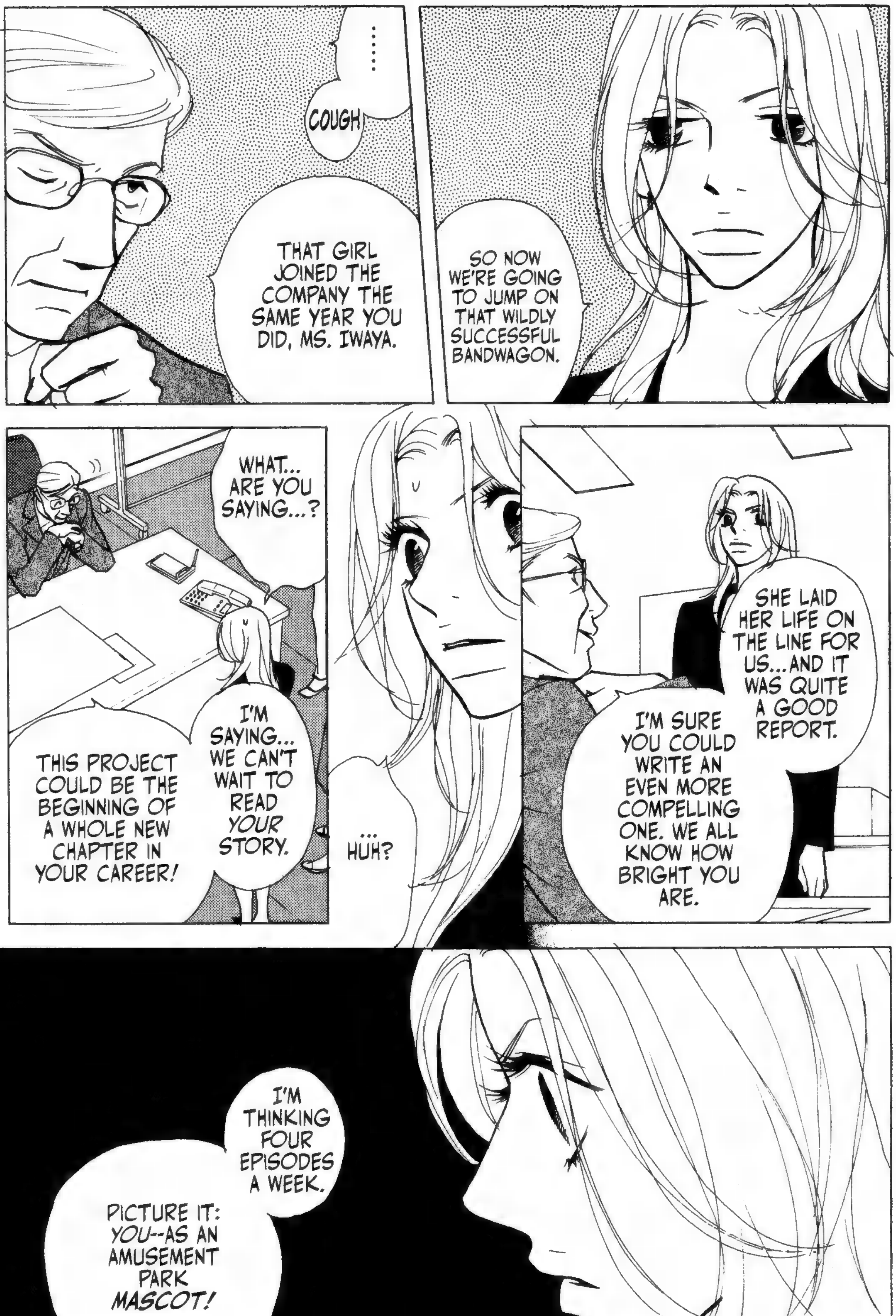
IT'S LIKE A MIRACLE.
DING DONG
I FORGOT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING LAST NIGHT.
BUT FIRST...I WAS ROUGH ON YOU. I'M SORRY.
Yet she's still standing tall
AND ACTUALLY... I GOTTA CONFESS. I'M JEALOUS OF YOU.
THAT'S WHY I WAS BEING SO HARSH.
EH...?
YOU... ARE?
WHY?
OH, C'MON...

...YOU GRADUATED FROM TOKYO AND HARVARD UNIVERSITY. YOU HAVE THIS GREAT CAREER AS A JOURNALIST, AND YOUR BOYFRIEND HAS ALL THREE HIGHS.*
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW AN ORDINARY HOUSEWIFE LIKE ME WOULD ENVY YOU?!
SHEESH-- YOU'RE AS CLUELESS AS YOU WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
*THE THREE QUALITIES JAPANESE WOMEN ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK FOR IN A HUSBAND: HIGH EDUCATION, HIGH SALARY AND HIGH HEIGHT.
...THEN AGAIN, I DOUBT I COULD'VE DONE ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE.
WE'VE ALL GOTTA WORK WITH WHAT WE'VE GOT, I GUESS.
OH, YEAH--THIS IS FOR YOU.
WHAT IS IT?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED 'EM.
SUMIRE
BWA HA HA HA! HAND-KNITTED--!
WITH MY NAME--!
I DIDN'T SAY I WANTED UNDERWEAR!
HEH HEH...TOO LATE. YOU HAVE TO WEAR 'EM.

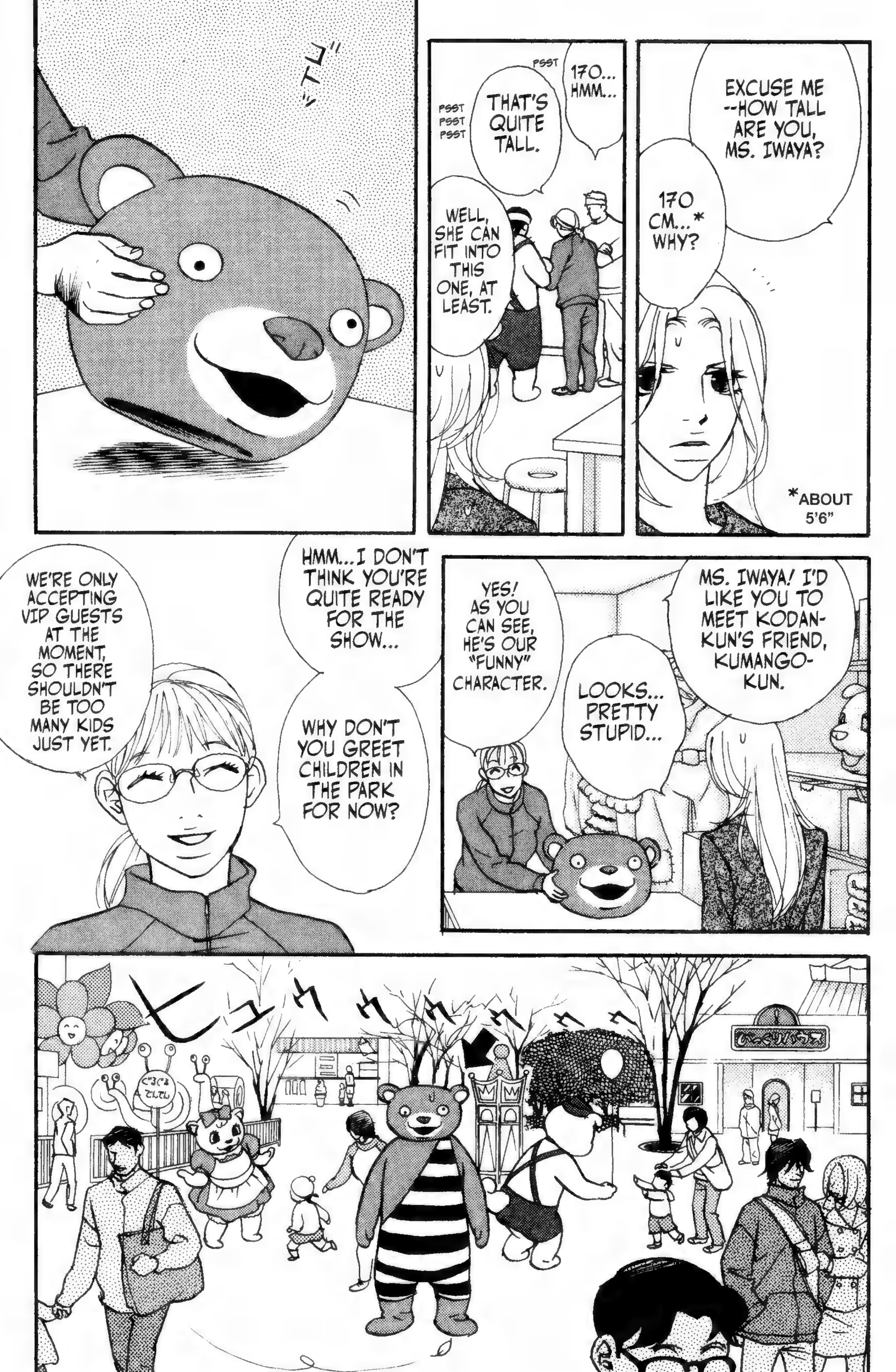
HA, HA, HA...
......
AW, C'MON. DON'T CRY OVER HAND-KNITTED UNDIES.
...I JUST WONDER... IF I'LL EVER BE THE ONLY ONE FOR SOMEBODY.
AREN'T YOU ALREADY?
I MEAN, FOR DOG-BOY OVER THERE, AT LEAST.
MUMBLE, MUMBLE... SUMIRE...
Z
...I DON'T KNOW...
WEARING THE UNDIES

Rule 19
JOB TOO COOL FOR YOUR PET?

IT'S A HAPPY, HAPPY WONDERLAND!!
KODAN LAND REOPENS ON DECEMBER FIRST!!!
MOMO!! TURN OFF THE TV.
IT'S DINNERTIME!
WH...WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET...?
FIVE HOURS EARLIER
IT'S ABOUT THE NEW SECTION ON YOUNG OFFICE LADIES WE'RE PUTTING IN AFTER THE LAYOUT CHANGES.
I'M THINKING NOW IT SHOULD START OFF AS A SPECIAL FEATURE.
YOU MEAN A REAL LIFE STORY FROM ONE OF OUR FEMALE REPORTERS?
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. EVERYONE LOVED IT WHEN WE RAN THAT GIRL FROM THE SCIENCE SECTION'S DIET JOURNAL!


......
COUGH
THAT GIRL JOINED THE COMPANY THE SAME YEAR YOU DID, MS. IWAYA.
SO NOW WE'RE GOING TO JUMP ON THAT WILDLY SUCCESSFUL BANDWAGON.
WHAT... ARE YOU SAYING...?
I'M SAYING... WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ *YOUR* STORY.
THIS PROJECT COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A WHOLE NEW CHAPTER IN YOUR CAREER!
...HUH?
SHE LAID HER LIFE ON THE LINE FOR US...AND IT WAS QUITE A GOOD REPORT.
I'M SURE YOU COULD WRITE AN EVEN MORE COMPELLING ONE. WE ALL KNOW HOW BRIGHT YOU ARE.
I'M THINKING FOUR EPISODES A WEEK.
PICTURE IT: *YOU*--AS AN AMUSEMENT PARK *MASCOT!*

WELL, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT KODAN LAND, ONE OF OUR KODAN GROUP COMPANIES, IS REOPENING THIS FALL.
SO WE'RE HAVING EACH SECTION PUT IN A PROMOTIONAL STORY ABOUT THE PLACE. THE TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER!
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOUNG OFFICE LADIES?!!
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HOW POPULAR THEIR ANIMAL SHOW IS WITH MY KIDS... GOOD LUCK!
BASTARD...
NO WONDER HE HASN'T PICKED ON ME LATELY. HE'S BEEN SAVING ALL HIS HUMILIATION FOR THIS...!
KODAN, DADAN, DADAN, DADAN!
KODANNNN LAND--!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO TURN THAT OFF?!
WHAT ...?
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW THEM--BUT LET ME INTRODUCE OUR MASCOTS!
THIS IS OUR MAIN CHARACTER--KODAN-KUN--AND HIS GIRLFRIEND, NOMA-CHAN!
I SEE...
HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE.


EXCUSE ME --HOW TALL ARE YOU, MS. IWAYA?
170 CM...* WHY?
*ABOUT 5'6"
170... HMM...
PSST
THAT'S QUITE TALL.
PSST PSST PSST
WELL, SHE CAN FIT INTO THIS ONE, AT LEAST.
MS. IWAYA! I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET KODAN-KUN'S FRIEND, KUMANGO-KUN.
YES! AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S OUR "FUNNY" CHARACTER.
LOOKS... PRETTY STUPID...
HMM...I DON'T THINK YOU'RE QUITE READY FOR THE SHOW...
WHY DON'T YOU GREET CHILDREN IN THE PARK FOR NOW?
WE'RE ONLY ACCEPTING VIP GUESTS AT THE MOMENT, SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE TOO MANY KIDS JUST YET.

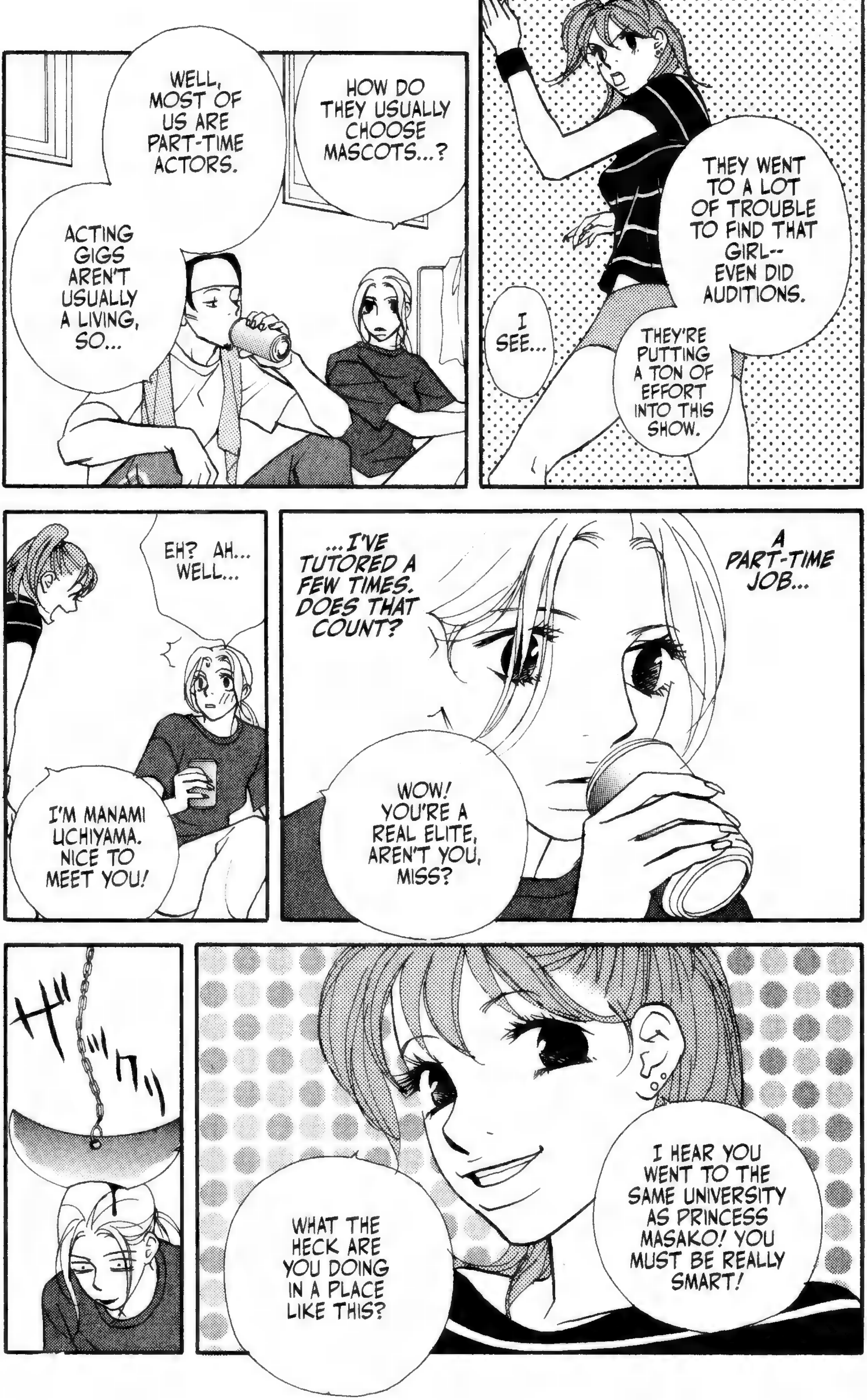
REMEMBER! WHEN YOU'RE WEARING A COSTUME, IT'S BEST TO KEEP MOVING!
OTHERWISE, YOU'LL JUST LOOK LIKE A STATUE! AND WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT!
AND MOVE YOUR ENTIRE BODY--NOT JUST YOUR ARMS AND LEGS!
YOU'VE GOT TO EXAGGERATE EVERY MOVEMENT WHILE IN THE SUIT, OR IT WON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE MOVING.
WHAT IS THAT...?
OH... SHE'S NEW.
DUMBASS!

INSIDE COSTUME
STUPID BRAT!!
KYA, HA HA HA!
WHAT ...?!
YAHOOOOOO!
WHOA!
WOOHOO!
......
YEAH!
DAMNED KIDS! DO YOU WANT ME TO SEND YOU TO HELL?!
WAAHHH! MOMMYYY!
OWWWW...
YOU LOOK LIKE AN OLD WOMAN TONIGHT, SUMIRE.
SHUT UP.
OH, YEAH-- THERE. RIGHT THERE.

HEY...
HOW'D YOU GET HURT, ANYWAY?
......
I NEVER KNEW HASUMI-KUN HAD A KINKY STREAK.
THERE'S NO WAY I'M TELLING HIM I'M A MASCOT.
...SO THE "KODAN-KUN SHOW" ISN'T UNDER THE DIRECT MANAGEMENT OF KODAN LAND?
NO. SHOW MANAGEMENT IS ENTRUSTED TO OUR COMPANY-- SUPER KIDS.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST 30 YEARS SINCE KODAN LAND RAN THE SHOW.
AT ONE POINT, WE ALMOST CLOSED DOWN PERMANENTLY DUE TO FINANCIAL TROUBLES.
BUT WE WERE SAVED BY THE KIDS TOY COMPANY'S GENEROUS INVESTMENTS.
I HEAR THEIR PRESIDENT ACTUALLY PERFORMED IN THE FIRST KODAN-KUN SHOWS.
MUST BE PRETTY ATTACHED TO THE LI'L GUY.

'EY! WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS DUMP?!
DIDN'T WANNA BREAK YOUSE DOWN--BUT I GUESS WE GOT NO CHOICE!
SUPER PAIN-IN-THE-ASS KIDS!
!?
SHHH... DON'T GO OUT THERE.
THEY'LL BE GONE SOON.
SEE, KIDS TOY HAS BEEN HAVING A LITTLE... *TROUBLE*... WITH THIS, UH, *YAKUZA* GROUP.
THE COMPANY BORROWED A LOT OF MONEY FROM THEM, BUT HASN'T STOPPED INVESTING IN THE SHOW.
SO NOW AND THEN THEY SEND SOME GOONS OVER TO HARASS US.
THE SHOW CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT KIDS TOY'S SUPPORT...SO WE JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT FOR NOW.
HERE WE ARE, IN THE LAND OF OUR DREAMS--♪
NO, NO! LIVELY! STEP LIVELY!

KUMANGO-KUN
YOU'RE LATE, KUMANGO-KUN!!
...DO YOU REALIZE THIS IS EVEN MORE RIDICULOUS WITHOUT THE COSTUME?
WE'RE FUN AND COOL AND WE LIKE ICE CREAM--
IT COSTS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO DRY-CLEAN ONE COSTUME.
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
...OKAY.
IT'S FUN TODAY IN THE PARK, HOORAY!
C'MON, KUMANGO-KUN--HUSTLE!!
THUNDER KICK--!
HIII-YA!!
WHICH CHARACTERS ARE THEY?
OH.
THIS BRAND NEW RIDE WAS BUILT IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING--THUNDER SPARK.
THUNDER SPARK
THOSE TWO ARE THE RIDE'S NEW MASCOTS--SKY THUNDER AND SPARK GIRL.


THEY WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO FIND THAT GIRL-- EVEN DID AUDITIONS.
I SEE...
THEY'RE PUTTING A TON OF EFFORT INTO THIS SHOW.
HOW DO THEY USUALLY CHOOSE MASCOTS...?
WELL, MOST OF US ARE PART-TIME ACTORS.
ACTING GIGS AREN'T USUALLY A LIVING, SO...
A PART-TIME JOB...
...I'VE TUTORED A FEW TIMES. DOES THAT COUNT?
WOW! YOU'RE A REAL ELITE, AREN'T YOU, MISS?
EH? AH... WELL...
I'M MANAMI UCHIYAMA. NICE TO MEET YOU!
I HEAR YOU WENT TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY AS PRINCESS MASAKO! YOU MUST BE REALLY SMART!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

WELL...ADULT SOCIETY IS QUITE COMPLICATED AT TIMES...
I TOTALLY UNDER-STAND.
MANAMI DIDN'T WANT TO BE DOING THIS, EITHER.
I'M TRYING TO BE AN ACTOR, Y'KNOW--
NO MATTER HOW MANY AUDITIONS I WENT TO, I NEVER MADE THE CUT--
BUT ONE DAY, I FINALLY GOT A PART. TOO BAD IT WAS THIS ONE.
HOW...
UGH-- WHY DOES LIFE SUCK SO BAD?!
...HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT OUT LOUD?
BWAH HA HA HA!
THIS IS GENIUS, MS. IWAYA...PURE GENIUS!
IT'S GOT YOU WRITTEN ALL OVER IT... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU RAN OUT OF OXYGEN AND FAINTED!
WELL... IT WAS WRITTEN FROM EXPERIENCE...
WHY DON'T YOU BRING A PHOTOGRAPHER NEXT TIME?
WE'LL INCLUDE YOUR HEADSHOT AND PROFILE-- READERS JUST EAT THAT STUFF UP!!

殺
意
ムラッ
MURDEROUS INTENT
...I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE NECESSARY.
ARE... ARE YOU SURE...?
POSITIVE.
U...UH...
LATE AGAIN, KUMANGO-KUN!
YOU HAVE TO TURN AROUND AFTER ONE, TWO, THREE STEPS!
OTHERWISE, YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO STRIKE YOUR POSE AT "I'M KUMANGO!"
UH, RIGHT... SORRY.
YOU'RE ACTUALLY NOT A BAD DANCER, MS. IWAYA.
YOU JUST HAVE TO LET YOURSELF FEEL THE MUSIC.
FEEL THE MUSIC...

...WHY AM I GETTING IN TROUBLE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?
OKAY, FROM THE TOP!
...WAIT.
DANCING...
TIPS ON DANCING?
WHY?
UH... WELL...
...IT... IT'S FOR A STORY I'M DOING...
WELL, LET'S SEE...A DANCE USUALLY HAS SOME THEME OR STORY. AND YOU EXPRESS THAT THROUGH YOUR DANCE, SEE?
AFTER SOME ADVENTURES WITH NOMA-CHAN AND KUMANGO-KUN, KODAN-KUN DISCOVERS A NEW LAND OF DREAMS!
THEME
I... SEE.
THEN YOU HAVE TO BECOME THE CHARACTER YOU'RE GIVEN--NO MATTER WHAT!
IF YOU STEP OUTSIDE THE CHARACTER TO ANALYZE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FEEL THE MUSIC.

KUMANGO'S CHARACTER = STUPID, SLOW AND GREEDY.
BECOME THE CHARACTER...
KUMANGO'S CHARACTER = STUPID, SLOW AND GREEDY.
NO WAY!!!
H-HUH?!
...YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, MS. IWAYA.
NEITHER DO YOU, SENPAI...
SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
WELL...YEAH. I MEAN, THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF TERRORIST THREATS ON THE MASS MEDIA LATELY...
SO I UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS...

...BUT I REALLY OBJECT TO THE HEAVY EDITING WE'RE BEING ASKED TO DO ON STATEMENTS MADE BY LOCAL SOLDIERS.
SOME QUOTES HAVE ALREADY BEEN REJECTED BECAUSE OUR EDITORS WERE AFRAID IT WOULD SOUND LIKE WE WERE SIDING WITH THE MUSLIMS.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S DANGEROUS? THREATENING FREE EXPRESSION LIKE THAT?
UH... UH-HUH...
AND HERE I AM, PREOCCUPIED BY A STUFFED ANIMAL SHOW...
STUPID
BEFORE I KNEW IT...
...A DEEP CHASM HAD FORMED BETWEEN SENPAI HASUMI AND ME.
CAN I JOIN YOU TWO?
OH...MS. HAMANO.
UH, THIS IS MY FORMER COLLEAGUE FROM THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT...
I'M HAMANO, FROM THE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER DIVISION.
OH, YES--I'VE HEARD OF YOU.
WHOOPS-- I GOTTA RUN.
FORGOT ABOUT MY MEETING.
OKAY... NEXT TIME THEN!

I READ YOUR STORY FOR THE NEW "YOUNG OFFICE LADIES" SERIES.
YOUR MANAGER'S MAKING YOU WORK REALLY HARD, HUH?
AH...WELL, A NEWCOMER HAS TO PAY HER DUES, I GUESS.
IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY THINK?
I MEAN, ISN'T HE JUST TORTURING YOU?
IT'S JUST AN OLD MAN'S UGLY SADISM.
HE ENJOYS TORTURING A SMART WOMAN LIKE YOU.
JUST LIKE OUR FORMER BOSS IN THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT. THE ONE WHOSE TEETH YOU BASHED IN.
LOOK, I WASN'T GONNA TELL YOU THIS...
...BEFORE YOU WERE TRANSFERRED TO LIFESTYLE INFORMATION...
...THE ENGLISH DIVISION REALLY WANTED YOU.

BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID, THEY PURPOSELY SENT YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT LESS LIKELY TO BUILD YOUR CAREER.
AND I GOT TO JUMP INTO THE EMPTY SPOT.
IT'S TOO BAD.
AS WOMEN, WE HAVE TO ACT QUIET AND UNASSUMING IF WE WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES...
TAKESHI-- HURRY UP--!
Shooting Star
OH, EXCUSE ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU EVEN TOLD ME WE WERE GOING TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK.
YOU TRICKED ME AGAIN...
STOP COMPLAINING. I GOT FREE TICKETS FROM MY UNCLE SO WE COULD ENJOY THE WHOLE DAY HERE!
ISN'T HE JUST TORTURING YOU?
HE IS.
AND I KNEW IT ALL ALONG... BUT I PRETENDED IT WASN'T TRUE.
HER FOOT
BECAUSE IN THE END, IT'S STILL MY JOB.

パコッ
I KNOW SOMEONE'S IN THIS COSTUME! LEMME SEE YOUR FACE!
JERK! JERK!
...Y... YOU'RE RIGHT. I AM.
...EH?
AN ELITE, BILINGUAL, HARVARD GRADUATE, CUM-LAUDE-JERK!
KYA?!
!?
TAKESHI?
THAT KICK... JUST LIKE PRO-WRESTLER CHONO BEFORE HE HURT HIS NECK...!
IT CAN'T BE... HER?!
STOP, MS. IWAYA! THEY'RE JUST KIDS!
CALM DOWN--!
hahh—
hahh—
hahh—

DAMN IT.
I CAN'T WIPE MY TEARS (OR NOSE) IN THIS THING.
SO...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I CAN'T SHOW MY FACE... ESPECIALLY NOT AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS.
KUMANGO-KUN, FREAKING OUT
...IS THAT YOU... SUMIRE?

KIDNAPPED
奪取!!
KYA--! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
huff
huff
huff
DO YOU HAVE A HANDKERCHIEF... OR A TISSUE...?
HUH? OH... SURE.
COULD YOU...
...WIPE OFF MY FACE?
shff
PFFT--
BWA HA, HA, HA, HA!
Gasp-- gasp--
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, SUMIRE--?
YOU--WHAT GOT--INTO YOU?!
DON'T LAUGH AT ME.

DON'T...
......
chu
DON'T WORRY.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU'RE ALWAYS COOL.
'CAUSE YOU ALWAYS GIVE IT YOUR BEST.
HERE. IT'S CLEAN NOW.

...THANK YOU.
...YOU WERE THREATENED?
THESE THREE--GANGSTERS--TOLD ME THAT IF WE DIDN'T STOP THE SHOW, THEY WERE GONNA HURT US--!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! MANAMI QUITS!
I DIDN'T WANNA DO THIS STUPID SHOW ANYWAY!
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT WORTH PUTTING MY LIFE IN DANGER!
...NOW WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
YUP...
IN THIRTY YEARS...WE'VE NEVER CANCELED THIS SHOW. NOT EVEN ONCE...

*GOKUDO IS ANOTHER WORD FOR YAKUZA--JAPANESE GANGSTERS!

I'LL KICK YOUR AAASSSS...!!
HUH?!
NOT SO FAST! SPARK GIRL IS HERE, TOO!
SU--SUMIRE?!
YOU GOT A DEATH WISH, MISSY?
TAKE 'EM OUT.

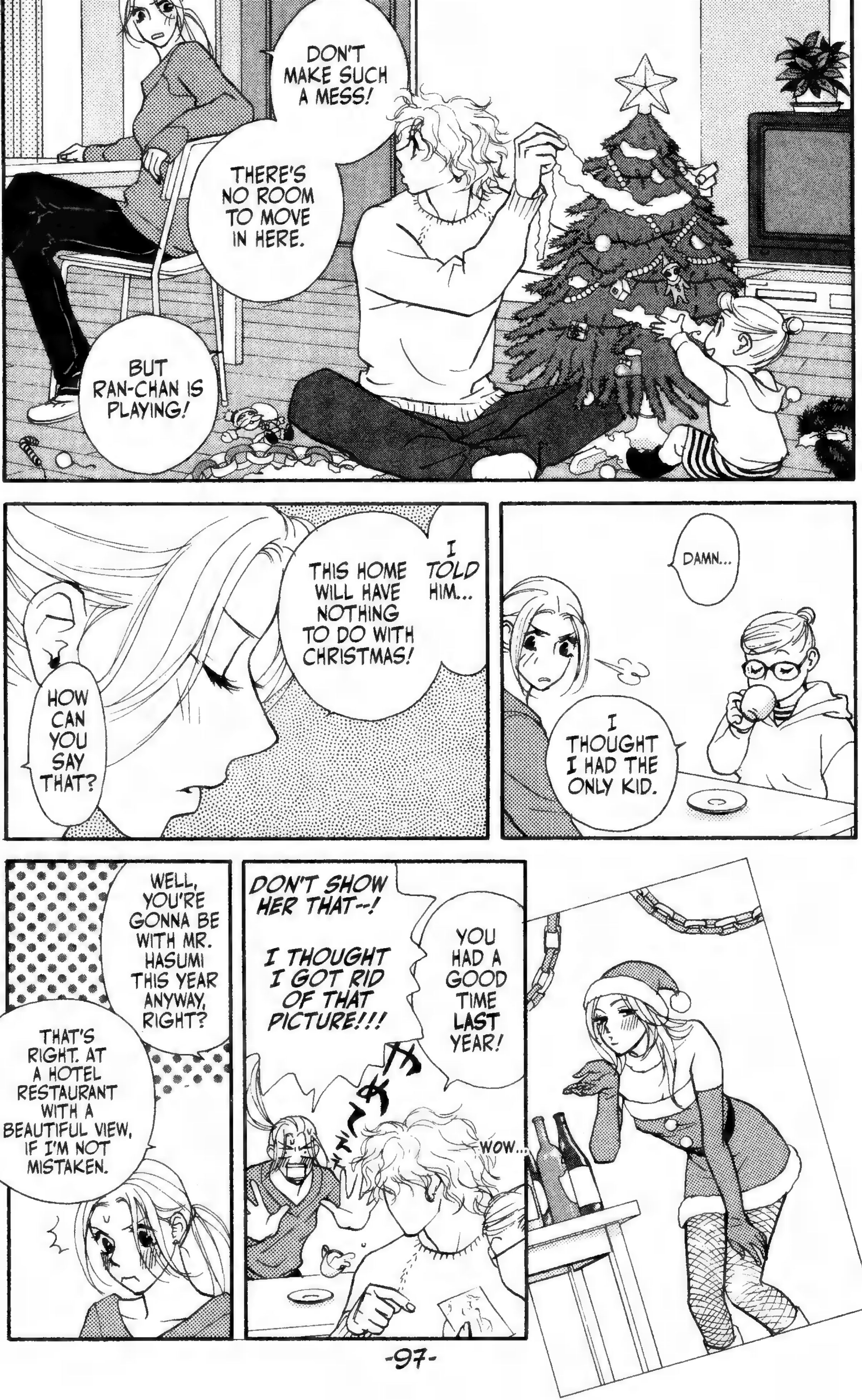
SHOVE
YOU GOT SOME BEAUTIFUL LEGS, BITCH.
HEH, HEH.
GOOD JOB, SPARK GIRL!
DADS WHO CAME WITH THEIR KIDS
SO COOL--!

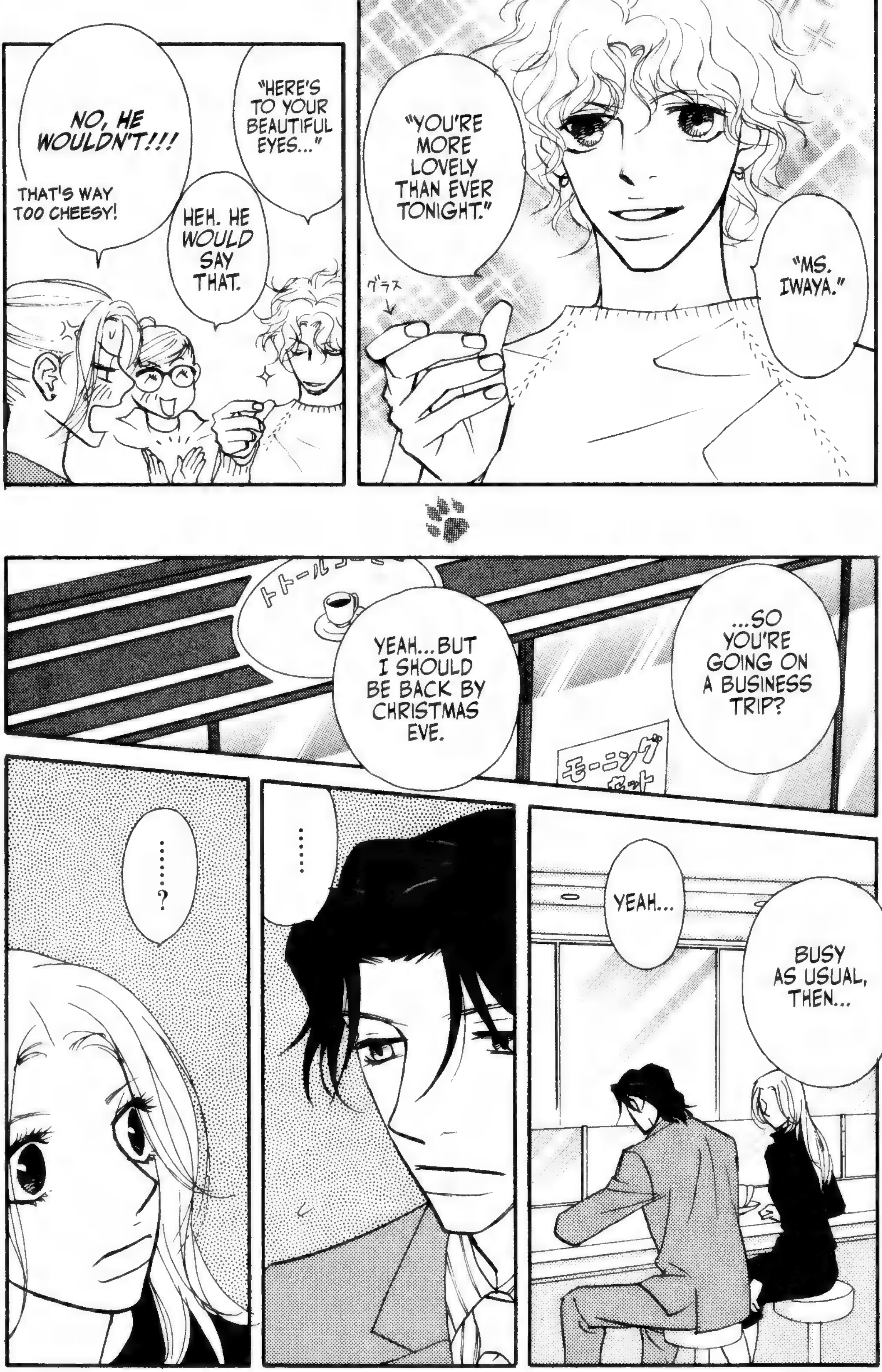
TH... THIS AIN'T OVER!!
バタバタ
SKY THUNDER!
SPARK GIRL!
キャあっ

...THANK YOU SO MUCH.
THE GANGSTERS HAVEN'T COME TO HARASS US SINCE.
AND WE GOT MANAMI BACK, TOO!
...NO PROBLEM.
THANKS TO YOU GUYS...
...I LEARNED A LOT THIS WEEK.
MAYBE I AM...
...A LITTLE BIT STRONGER.
SHE'S TOO STRONG AS IT IS!!
WAAAAH!

Rule 20
ON KEEPING SECRETS...OR NOT

THE PRINCE FROM ONLY IN MY DREAMS...
...SUDDENLY SHOWED UP IN REAL LIFE. HE GAVE ME HIS HAND. AND WITHOUT THINKING...
...I TOOK IT.
MOMO.
HEY-- MOMO!

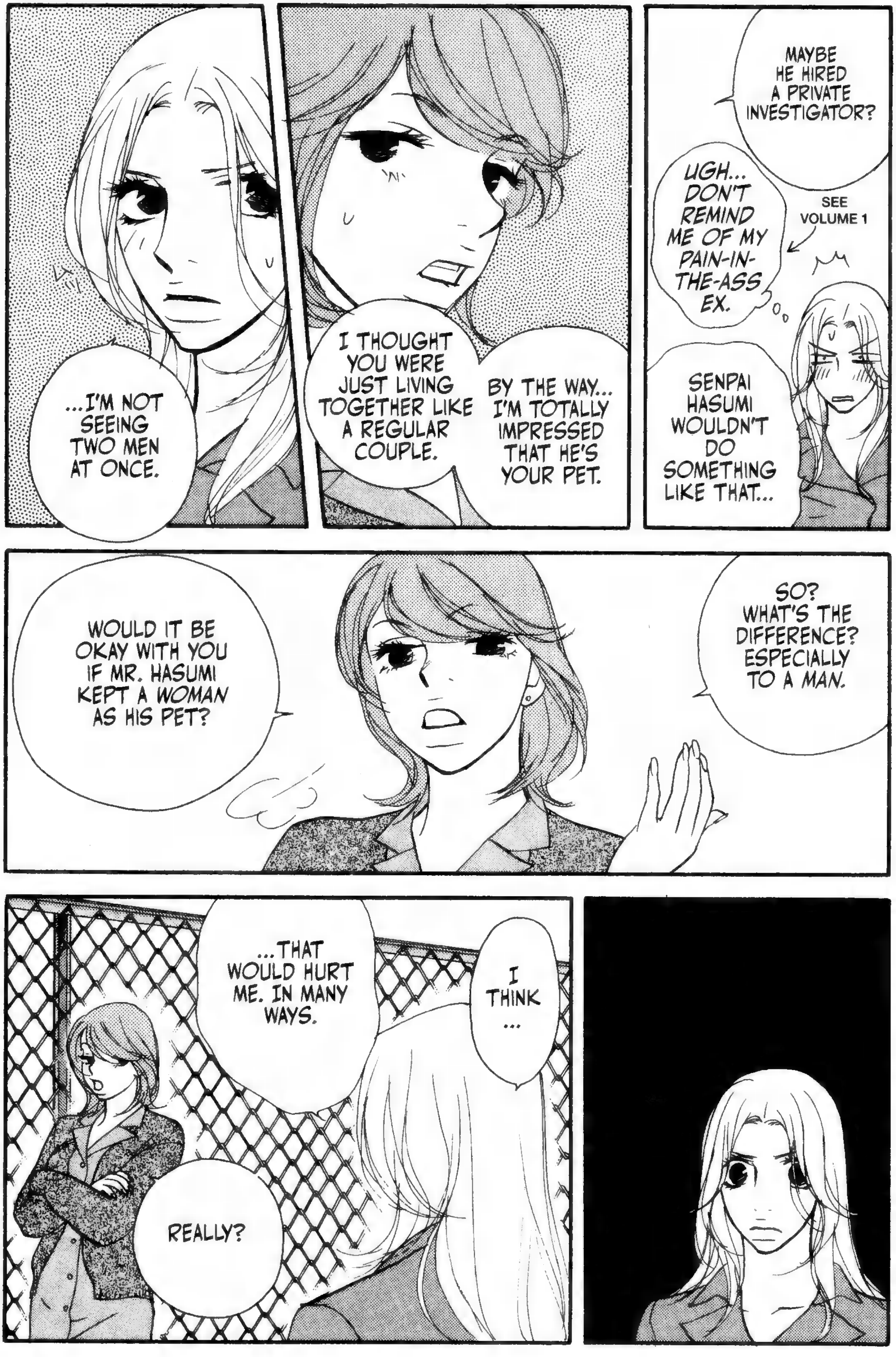

DON'T MAKE SUCH A MESS!
THERE'S NO ROOM TO MOVE IN HERE.
BUT RAN-CHAN IS PLAYING!
I TOLD HIM...
THIS HOME WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
DAMN...
I THOUGHT I HAD THE ONLY KID.
WELL, YOU'RE GONNA BE WITH MR. HASUMI THIS YEAR ANYWAY, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. AT A HOTEL RESTAURANT WITH A BEAUTIFUL VIEW, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.
YOU HAD A GOOD TIME LAST YEAR!
WOW...
DON'T SHOW HER THAT--!
I THOUGHT I GOT RID OF THAT PICTURE!!!

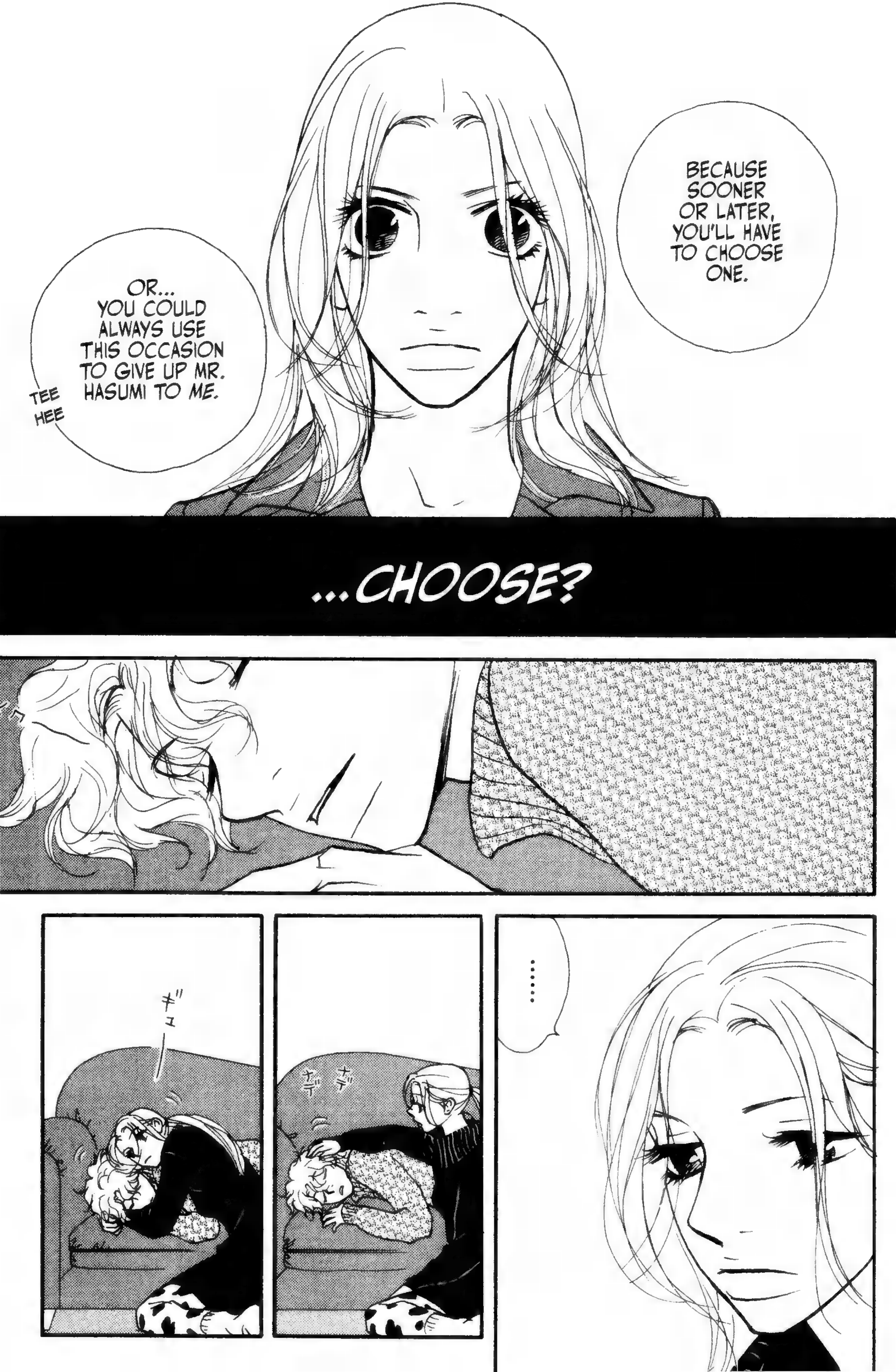

"MS. IWAYA."
"YOU'RE MORE LOVELY THAN EVER TONIGHT."
グラス
"HERE'S TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL EYES..."
HEH. HE WOULD SAY THAT.
NO, HE WOULDN'T!!!
THAT'S WAY TOO CHEESY!
...SO YOU'RE GOING ON A BUSINESS TRIP?
YEAH...BUT I SHOULD BE BACK BY CHRISTMAS EVE.
モーニング
YEAH...
BUSY AS USUAL, THEN...
......
......?

WELL...
YES?
IT'S ABOUT... TAKESHI-KUN.
MO...I MEAN, TAKESHI-KUN...?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?!
NOTHING...
......
IT'S JUST... I...
...I'M NOT GOOD AT... KEEPING SECRETS.
EH...?
SO...
AH?
YES ...?
WELL...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
LEFT OUT
FORGET ...?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FORGET ABOUT IT?
WHAT?!
...NEVER MIND. I'LL TELL YOU LATER.
FORGET ABOUT IT.
ANYWAY, I'D BETTER GO.
MR. HASUMI KNOWS ABOUT MOMO?!
EH?
ANYWAY...I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH HIM SINCE.
HE USUALLY CALLS OR EMAILS ME CONSTANTLY WHEN HE'S ON A TRIP...
YOU TOLD HIM YOU STOPPED SMOKING WHEN YOU DIDN'T... YOU PRETENDED TO COME WHEN YOU DIDN'T...
OH, YEAH... DO THOSE COUNT AS SECRETS?
I DON'T KNOW... THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I KEEP A SECRET FROM HIM...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NOTHING ELSE?
WHIMPER...

HMM, THAT'S TRUE. "I'M THINKING OF YOU"..."SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS"...SAPPY STUFF LIKE THAT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW...?
MAYBE SOMEONE TOLD HIM YOUR SECRET?
TOLD HIM MY SECRET ...?
BUT THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT MOMO ARE YOU AND...
I DIDN'T TELL HIM.
THINGS LIKE THAT DON'T DO MUCH DAMAGE TO A RELATIONSHIP WHEN BOTH PARTIES ARE STILL CRAZY ABOUT EACH OTHER.
I FIGURE I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET SAFE UNTIL I NEED A TRUMP CARD.
ANYWAY, WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE HE KNOWS?
BECAUSE HE ACTUALLY SAID, "IT'S ABOUT TAKESHI-KUN."
HE MUST KNOW SOMETHING...
....


MAYBE HE HIRED A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR?
SENPAI HASUMI WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
UGH... DON'T REMIND ME OF MY PAIN-IN-THE-ASS EX.
SEE VOLUME 1
BY THE WAY... I'M TOTALLY IMPRESSED THAT HE'S YOUR PET.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST LIVING TOGETHER LIKE A REGULAR COUPLE.
...I'M NOT SEEING TWO MEN AT ONCE.
SO? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? ESPECIALLY TO A MAN.
WOULD IT BE OKAY WITH YOU IF MR. HASUMI KEPT A WOMAN AS HIS PET?
I THINK ...
...THAT WOULD HURT ME. IN MANY WAYS.
REALLY?


BECAUSE SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE.
OR... YOU COULD ALWAYS USE THIS OCCASION TO GIVE UP MR. HASUMI TO ME.
TEE HEE
...CHOOSE?
......
ナデ ナデ
ギュー

......
CHOOSE...
...BETWEEN MOMO...
...AND SENPAI HASUMI...?
The number you have reached has been disconnected or is out of service...
CAN'T...
...REACH HIM TODAY, EITHER.
THE TRAIN IS APPROACHING PLATFORM TWO.
I CAN'T REACH HIM ON HIS CELL PHONE AT ALL!
YOU REALIZE THAT MEANS IT'S TOTALLY OVER, RIGHT?
...DOES IT?

AND OF COURSE ...
...HE'S NOT HOME.
UGH...
THE SCENT OF SENPAI...
...JUST SMELLING HIM MAKES MY HEART BEAT FASTER.
I'M LIKE PAVLOV'S FREAKIN' DOG.
I'M HOME...

WELCOME BACK!
...OH.
ARE YOU OKAY?
....
I'M... RELIEVED.
THE SCENT OF MOMO...

IF I CHOOSE ONE, I LOSE THE OTHER.
WILL IT REALLY COME DOWN TO THAT?
WHOA.
DID SHE FINISH THIS WHOLE BOTTLE WHILE I WAS TAKING A SHOWER??
AMAZING...
YOU'RE GONNA GET SICK, SUMIRE.
AS ALWAYS...
...SHE'S COMPLETELY DEFENSELESS.

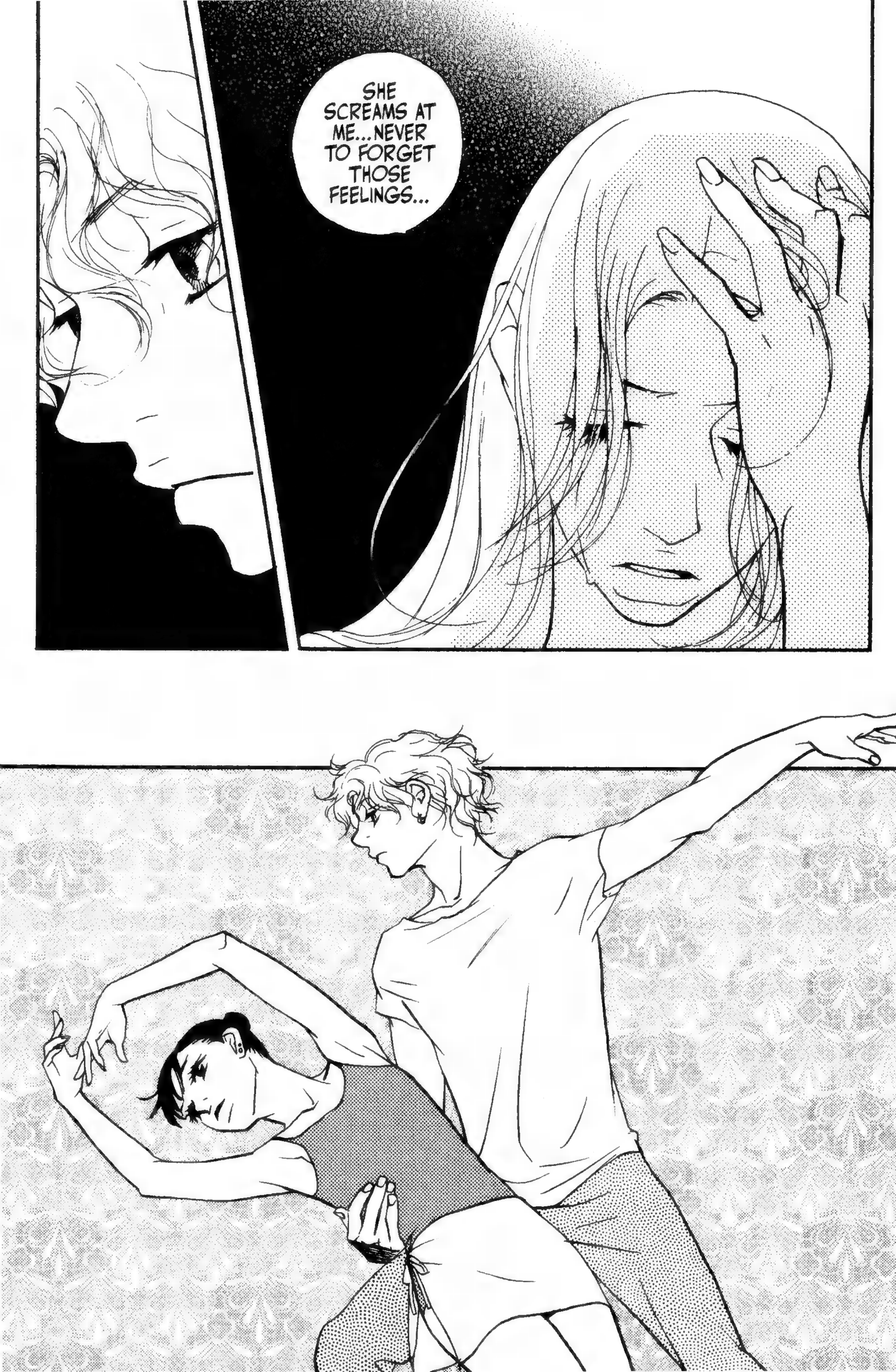
HEY, SUMIRE --
DON'T SLEEP THERE. YOU'LL GET SICK.
BESIDES, I CAN SEE YOUR UNDERWEAR.
AND YOU'LL REALLY BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU CATCH COLD!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TOAST TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL EYES WITH HASUMI-KUN AT CHRISTMAS!
tap tap
NNH...
DOESN'T MATTER...
...WE'RE THROUGH ANYWAY.
YOU'RE HOPELESS ...
...LET'S GO.

UH-OH.
WHOA... THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO STOP MYSELF.
WOULD SHE LET ME? PROBABLY.
DEFINITELY ...NOT GOOD.
SENPAI...

PINCH
AGHH!!
WHO?!
WHAT?!
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
DUNNO.
YOU WERE DREAMING SOMETHING NAUGHTY JUST NOW, WEREN'T YOU?
HUH?!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT? DID I SAY SOME-THING?!
YUP... YOU WERE ACTING LIKE A BRAZEN, WANTON WOMAN.
EHH?!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SUMIRE.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO TENSE ABOUT HASUMI-KUN.

AND YET, YOU STILL LOVE HIM...VERY MUCH.
WELL...
...HE WAS MY FIRST LOVE, AFTER ALL...
EVERY DAY WHEN I GOT TO SCHOOL...HE WAS THE FIRST THING I LOOKED FOR.
IF I SO MUCH AS MADE EYE CONTACT WITH HIM, I'D BE HAPPY ALL DAY.

EVEN BACK THEN I WAS IN PAIN... BUT SO HAPPY.
I LOVED HIM SO MUCH. I JUST...LOVED HIM.
THE SUMIRE FROM BACK THEN STILL LIVES IN HERE.
I KNOW I'M TENSE.
I WISH I COULD STOP IT.
BUT THE SUMIRE IN HERE WON'T LET ME.


SHE SCREAMS AT ME...NEVER TO FORGET THOSE FEELINGS...

BEAUTIFUL!
YOUR PAS DE DEUX IS ALREADY PERFECT!
SOOO PRETTY!
YOU'RE IN PERFECT HARMONY.
I ENVY YOU, RUMI...
WISH I COULD DANCE WITH TAKESHI-KUN!
TAKESHI--WAIT!
HEY--IS IT TRUE THAT STAR DANCERS CAME OVER TO HEADHUNT YOU?
HUH?
YOU BELIEVED THAT RUMOR?
DON'T LIE TO ME! I HEARD IT FROM MR. UMINO!
WHERE'S YOUR AMBITION, ANYWAY?
YOU COULD JOIN ANY COMPANY YOU WANT, TAKESHI!
MR. UMINO TOLD ME YOU COULD EVEN PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR THE FRANKFURT BALLET!
MR. UMINO HAS A BIG MOUTH.

...IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT WOMAN, ISN'T IT?
ALL RIGHT. YOU GOT ME.
I'M UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE ALL PETS ASSOCIATION.
BUT WHY?!
AND WHAT'S THE ALL PETS ASSOCIATION?
SHE'S NOT YOUR GIRLFRIEND, IS SHE?! SO WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE WITH HER?!
SO...
...YOU'RE REALLY GONNA TELL MR. HASUMI ABOUT MOMO?
I HAVE NO CHOICE. AND IT'S FOR THE BEST.
I JUST THINK...
"THAT WOMAN" ...

...WOULD NEVER ASK ANYONE "WHY," AS YOU DID JUST NOW...
...OR ASK THEM FOR HELP...
...OR COMPLAIN THAT SHE WAS HAVING TROUBLE.
...AT THIS POINT...
...I CAN PROBABLY ONLY LIVE WITH MOMO.
SHE CAN'T EVEN CRY IN FRONT OF HER BOYFRIEND.
EXCEPT FOR ME.
ISN'T THAT SAD?

...SAD? IT'S STRANGE.
YEAH...I GUESS SHE IS STRANGE.
NOT HER.
YOU! WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU?
IT'S JUST GOT TO BE MOMO.
WHY YOU, TAKESHI?
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
MAYBE 'CAUSE...
...I'M NOT HUMAN.

NOT TO HER, ANYWAY.
WHAT'RE YOU...?!
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T BE DUMPED.
I MAY BE WINNING AGAINST HASUMI-KUN... BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE THE LOSER.
SORRY I COULDN'T CONTACT YOU FOR SO LONG.
I WAS JUST SO BUSY.
AND ONCE I GOT THERE, MY CELL PHONE DIED.
THAT WAS THE WORST.
......
IS THAT REALLY ALL...?
I SEE...

WELL?
HM?
THE OTHER DAY...
YOU WERE ASKING ME ABOUT TAKESHI-KUN.
TAKESHI ...
OH!
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?!
WE HAVE TO GO.
MS. IWAYA-- CAN I TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE?
UM, SURE.
?
BUT... ISN'T THIS MY CONDO...?
TEN SECONDS TO SPARE... WE'RE JUST IN TIME.

SEE, MS. IWAYA? UP THERE ON THE ROOF!
WHAT ...?
BA-BAM
EH...?
BAM
TA-DAHH!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
BAM
WHOA!

FIRE-WORKS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL... EVEN IN WINTER.
......
はっ
THE NEIGHBORS ARE GONNA COMPLAIN--
I HAVE TO MAKE HIM STOP!!
AOKA
OH, MS. IWAYA?
BAM

MERRY CHRISTMAS.
THE OLD SUMIRE IN MY HEART...
...IS STILL CRYING, THINKING ABOUT HER FIRST LOVE.

AFTER ALL THAT... I CAN'T BREAK UP WITH HIM.
NO MATTER WHAT FUTURE AWAITS US.
SO...
...YOU TWO WERE PLANNING THIS ALL ALONG?!
YEAH, BUT I'M NO GOOD AT KEEPING SECRETS...
I ALMOST TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES!
HE WAS KEEPING A SECRET FROM ME!!
SO...WHAT ABOUT ALL THAT AGONY I WAS GOING THROUGH??
OH, HE ALSO GAVE ME SOME PICTURES OF YOU.
SEE?

TA-DAAA! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!
HERE IT IS AGAIN!! MY HOMEMADE CAKE!
FIVE SECONDS UNTIL SHE KILLS HIM
UH...
EH...?
ANYHOW, HERE'S TO SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE MOST.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE'LL WEAR THIS...?
SEXY SANTA COSTUME
DUDE... GET HER DRUNK AND SHE'LL DO ANYTHING.

FROM THE LIPS OF SHIGEHITO HASUMI

I have got you♡

He'll get you, all right! Here are some of Hasumi-kun's most famous lines!!

I LOVE YOU...

I FEEL LIKE I COULD DO THIS FOREVER.

ARE YOU SUNEO HONEKAWA?

I REMEMBER A POEM THAT USED THE STARS AS A METAPHOR FOR SUMIRE.

IT WASN'T JUST SOME ACCIDENT THAT I SLEPT WITH YOU.

NOW MY *PRINCESS* CAN VISIT ME ANYTIME.

JUST TWO OF US NEXT TIME.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME...I'LL BE HAPPY.

THE REASON YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY IS THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER ALONE. AM I RIGHT?

RIGHT NOW... I'M *HUNGRY* FOR YOU...

CAN I JUST HOLD YOU FOR A WHILE...?

EVEN IF A BOMB WERE DROPPED... I WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU.

Rule21

WHEN TO BRING SMALL CREATURES HOME

TODAY FEELS GLOOMY... FOGGY, EVEN.
A FOG THAT KEEPS ME FROM SHOWING MY FEELINGS.
...SIS?
TAKE-SHI?!
WHERE ARE YOU?
TOKYO. SAME PLACE AS I WAS LAST YEAR.
REALLY? THAT'S UNUSUAL... FOR YOU TO STAY IN ONE PLACE SO LONG.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR NEXT SHOW.
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT. I'M SURE YOU'RE BUSY. YOU DON'T NEED TO TAKE TIME OUT FOR THAT.
...MOM AND DAD DOING OKAY?
OH, SAME OLD, SAME OLD...HEY, CALL THEM SOMETIME, WOULD YOU? THEY HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN AT LEAST THREE YEARS.
WELL, YOU KNOW... AS LONG AS THEY'RE DOING ALL RIGHT. HEY-- I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.
click
OH, TAKESHI...

I WANT THE WIND TO BLOW THE FOG AWAY.
BRRRR.
rustle
HEY...A KITTEN.
MEOW...
yank

WHAT DID YOU PICK UP ON STREET?!
MIEKO AND KENTA.
THEY'RE REALLY HUNGRY. CAN YOU FEED THEM?
PUT THEM BACK WHERE YOU FOUND THEM.
HUH--?
ESPECIALLY THE CAT. *NOW!!*
WHY?
BECAUSE ...

NGH.
...
ACHOO!
I'M...
ACHOO!
...AL-
LER-
GIC...
ACHOO!
...TO
CATS!
AH. I
SEE.
はぐ
はぐ
はぐ
はぐ
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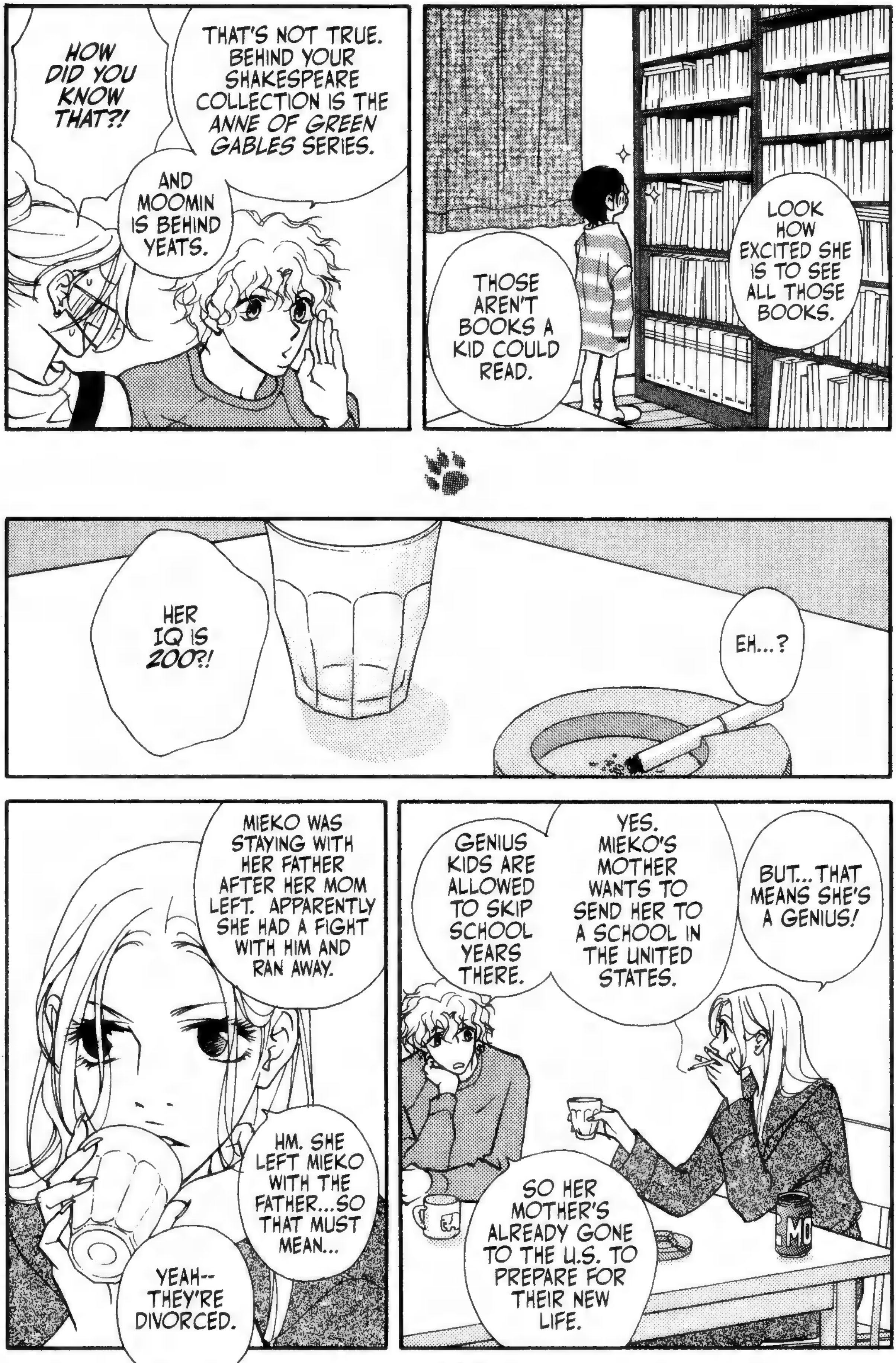
はぐ
カチャ
カチャ
......
HER ONLY LINE
OF DEFENSE

FOR SUCH A LITTLE KID TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME...
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS REASON.
WELL, SURE...BUT WE'RE NOT RUNNING A CHARITY HOME.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL CONVINCE HER TO GO HOME TOMORROW.
YOU REALIZE THEY'RE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
OF COURSE!
FIRST, MAKE SURE THEY BOTH GET BATHS.
THEY STINK.
UH--THE CAT, YOU MEAN?
THE CAT *AND* THE KID.
WELL, I CAN DO THE CAT.
BUT... MIEKO'S A *GIRL*. CAN'T YOU TELL?
WHAT?

SO KENTA IS...THE CAT'S NAME...?
YES, MA'AM.
EXCUSE ME.
I CAN WASH MYSELF--YOU DON'T NEED TO BE HERE.
OH... IS THAT RIGHT?
PRETTY MATURE FOR A KID HER AGE.
MIEKO... HOW OLD ARE YOU?
......
TEN.
......

*HER EX-BOYFRIEND

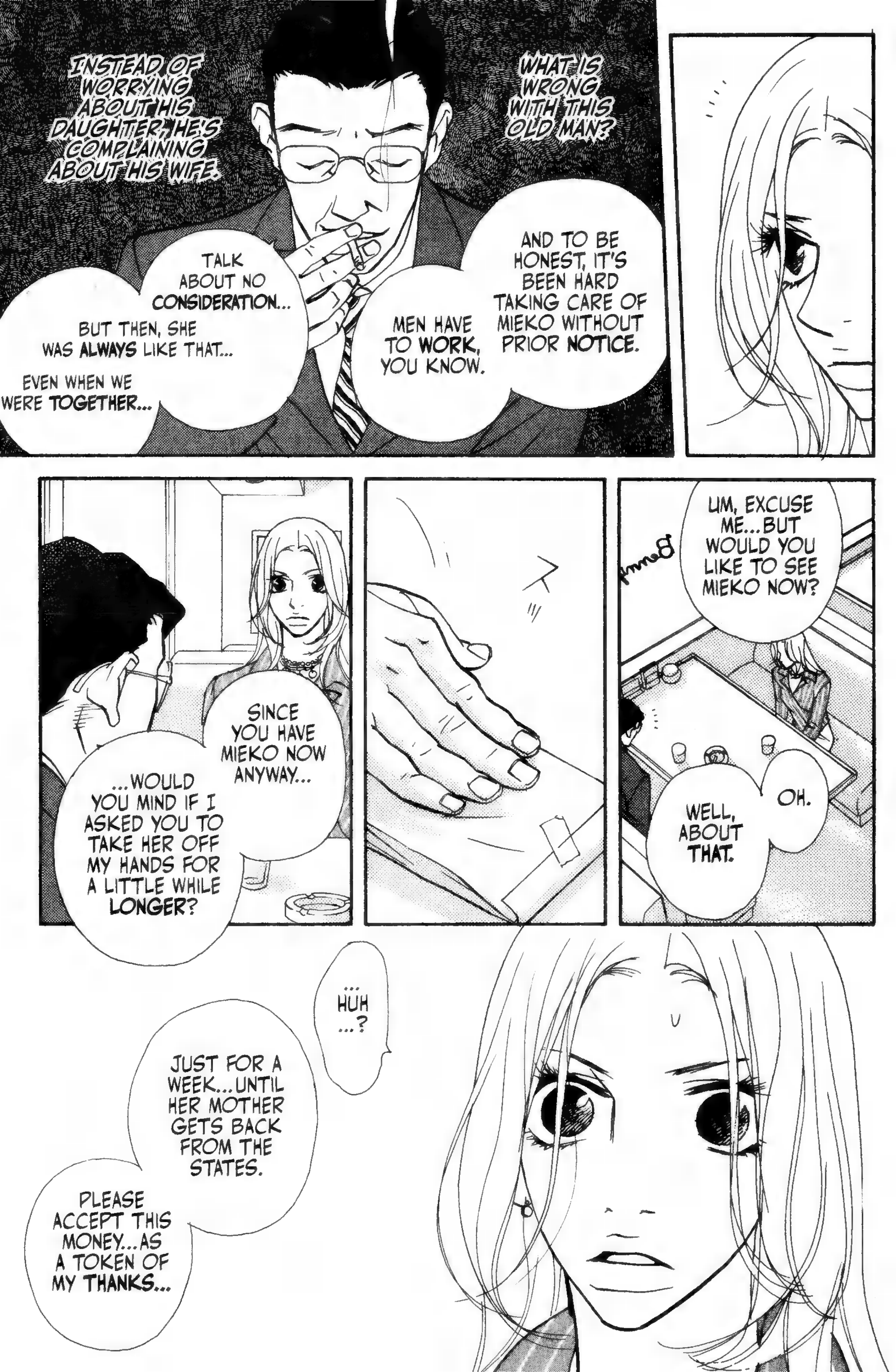

THAT'S NOT TRUE. BEHIND YOUR SHAKESPEARE COLLECTION IS THE *ANNE OF GREEN GABLES* SERIES.
AND MOOMIN IS BEHIND YEATS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
LOOK HOW EXCITED SHE IS TO SEE ALL THOSE BOOKS.
THOSE AREN'T BOOKS A KID COULD READ.
HER IQ IS *200*?!
EH...?
MIEKO WAS STAYING WITH HER FATHER AFTER HER MOM LEFT. APPARENTLY SHE HAD A FIGHT WITH HIM AND RAN AWAY.
HM. SHE LEFT MIEKO WITH THE FATHER...SO THAT MUST MEAN...
YEAH-- THEY'RE DIVORCED.
BUT...THAT MEANS SHE'S A GENIUS!
YES. MIEKO'S MOTHER WANTS TO SEND HER TO A SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES.
GENIUS KIDS ARE ALLOWED TO SKIP SCHOOL YEARS THERE.
SO HER MOTHER'S ALREADY GONE TO THE U.S. TO PREPARE FOR THEIR NEW LIFE.

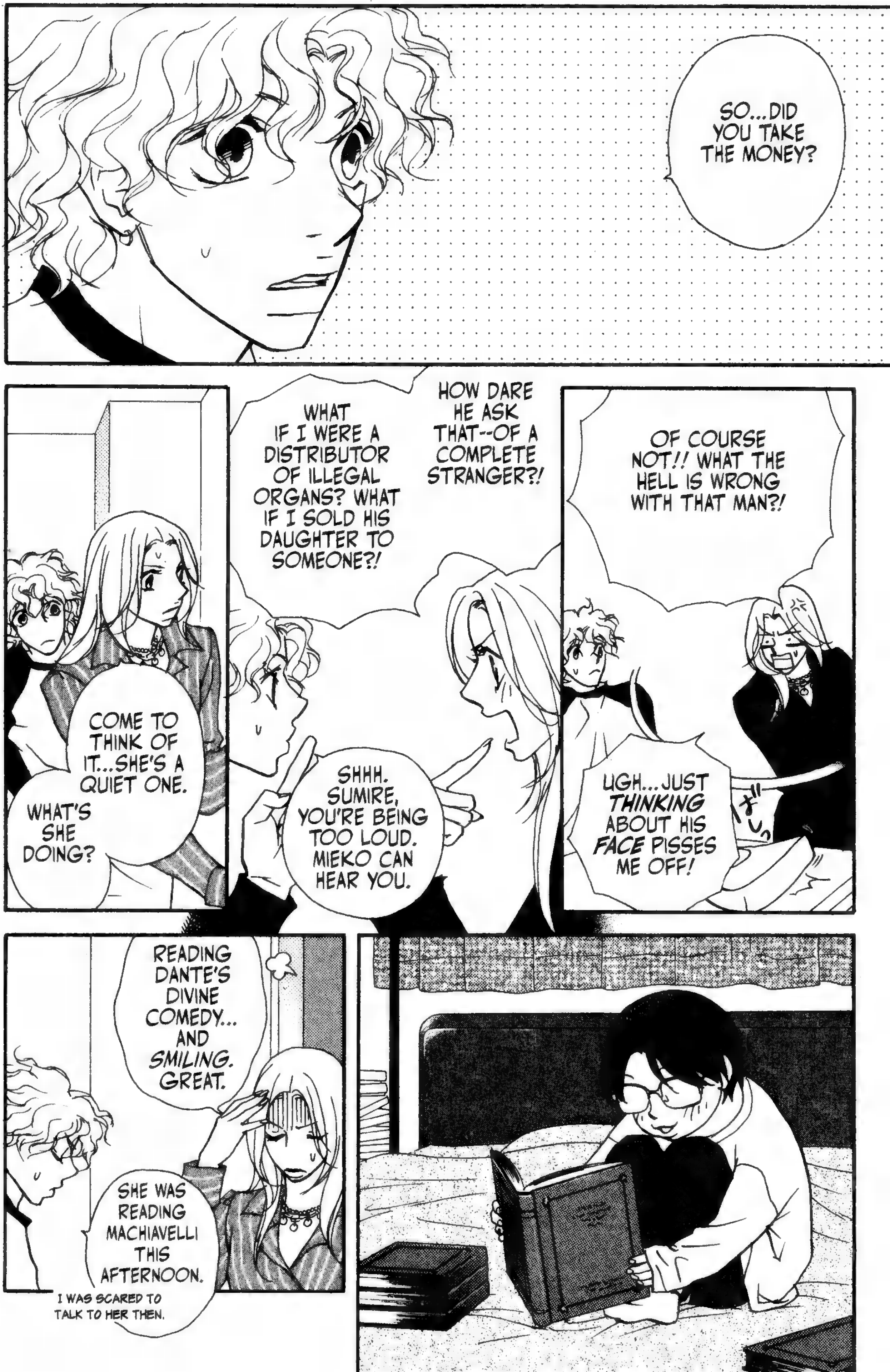
I SEE...
HUH?
HEY-- THIS WAS IN HER BAG.
PROBABLY HER CONTACT INFORMATION?
OH-- IT MUST BE!
WELL. LET'S CALL THIS NUMBER RIGHT NOW...
KYAAAAA!
EH?
THAT'S MIEKO!
MONSTER!
A MONSTER TRIED TO BITE MY FOOT!
WAAAAH!
MIEKO-- IT WAS A DREAM.
JUST A DREAM!

MUST HAVE BEEN A LONELINESS MONSTER.
IF YOU DON'T RUN, IT'LL EAT YOU ALIVE.
ぎゅ〜
...IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.
SHE MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER NIGHTMARE, THOUGH. SO I'LL JUST SLEEP IN HERE.
OKAY. THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
...MOMMY...
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, TAKESHI.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR FATHER SAYS, YOU CAN PRACTICE BALLET.
NOW... MAKE MOMMY'S DREAM COME TRUE.
LIVING UP TO THE DREAMS OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE...
...HAS A JOY ALL ITS OWN.
BUT EX-PECTATIONS CAN KEEP GROWING... UNTIL ONE DAY, THEY'RE MONSTERS.
BETTER!
YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
DON'T CRY, MOMMY.
I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME.
I'LL PRACTICE MORE AND MORE.
AND WHAT USED TO BE JOY...
...CAN TURN INTO A FEAR THAT MUST BE RELEASED.
IF YOU DON'T RUN, THE MONSTERS WILL GET YOU.

OH.
ARE YOU...MS. IWAYA?
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M MIEKO'S FATHER.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO BE DRAGGED INTO ALL THIS...
NO PROB-LEM.
HE'S OLDER THAN I THOUGHT HE'D BE.
AS I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN, SHE'S A VERY STUBBORN KID.
I'M HER FATHER, AND EVEN I CAN'T HANDLE HER SOMETIMES!
NO...SHE WAS VERY GOOD.
REALLY? WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.
IT'S EMBARRASSING ...BUT MY WIFE AND I SEPARATED LAST YEAR.
OH...SO THEY HAVEN'T DIVORCED YET.
I SEE...
PRETENDING TO CARE
ANYWAY... MY WIFE WANTED TO SEND MIEKO TO SCHOOL IN AMERICA, SO THAT'S WHERE SHE IS RIGHT NOW.
I MEAN, SHE WAS AN IDIOT AS A WIFE...
...BUT FOR SOME REASON SHE'S ALL CRAZY ABOUT EDUCATING OUR DAUGHTER.
I TRIED TO TELL HER, MIEKO'S A GIRL. IT WOULD BE A COMPLETE WASTE OF MONEY.


AND TO BE HONEST, IT'S BEEN HARD TAKING CARE OF MIEKO WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
MEN HAVE TO WORK, YOU KNOW.
TALK ABOUT NO CONSIDERATION...
BUT THEN, SHE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
EVEN WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER...
INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER, HE'S COMPLAINING ABOUT HIS WIFE.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS OLD MAN?
UM, EXCUSE ME...BUT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MIEKO NOW?
OH.
WELL, ABOUT THAT.
SINCE YOU HAVE MIEKO NOW ANYWAY...
...WOULD YOU MIND IF I ASKED YOU TO TAKE HER OFF MY HANDS FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER?
... HUH ...?
JUST FOR A WEEK...UNTIL HER MOTHER GETS BACK FROM THE STATES.
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS MONEY...AS A TOKEN OF MY THANKS...


SO...DID YOU TAKE THE MONEY?
OF COURSE NOT!! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THAT MAN?!
UGH...JUST *THINKING* ABOUT HIS *FACE* PISSES ME OFF!
HOW DARE HE ASK THAT--OF A COMPLETE STRANGER?!
WHAT IF I WERE A DISTRIBUTOR OF ILLEGAL ORGANS? WHAT IF I SOLD HIS DAUGHTER TO SOMEONE?!
SHHH. SUMIRE, YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD. MIEKO CAN HEAR YOU.
COME TO THINK OF IT...SHE'S A QUIET ONE.
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
READING DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY... AND *SMILING*. GREAT.
SHE WAS READING MACHIAVELLI THIS AFTERNOON.
I WAS SCARED TO TALK TO HER THEN.

WELL, SHE MAY BE A GENIUS... BUT SHE'S STILL ONLY SIX YEARS OLD.
AND I GET TO TAKE CARE OF HER ALL WEEK LONG.
OOH-- HOW CUTE!
THAT'S RIGHT... SHE FINALLY LOOKS LIKE A GIRL NOW!
SHE SURE DOES!
...DO YOU REALLY LIKE IT, MOMO?
YES ...YOU LOOK VERY CUTE!
LOOKS LIKE SHE LIKES THE DRESS, TOO.
SHE'S BEEN STARING AT HERSELF IN THE MIRROR A LOT.
KIND OF LIKE A MONKEY...

WHAT'S THAT BIG BOX IN YOUR ROOM, MOMO?
THAT'S THE BOX I WAS IN WHEN SUMIRE FOUND ME.
REALLY? YOU WERE PICKED UP ON THE STREET TOO, MOMO?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SOMEHOW THAT DIDN'T SOUND KID-APPROPRIATE...
WHY DO YOU KEEP IT?
SO I CAN THROW HIM OUT AGAIN IF HE DOES SOMETHING WRONG.
WHA--? I THOUGHT THAT BOX WAS A MEMENTO OF OUR LOVE!
I'LL THROW YOU OUT TOO, IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE.
IDIOT. MEMENTO, INDEED!
WAAUGH! DAMN YOU, SUMIRE--!
......
MOMO AND SUMIRE MUST BE...
...VERY GOOD FRIENDS.
I'M GONNA GO TO BED NOW.
Sigh

Sigh
SHE EVEN SIGHS.
JUST LIKE AN ADULT.
I THINK SHE'S FEELING LEFT OUT.
HEY, SUMIRE.
IT'S THE WEEKEND. YOU FREE TOMORROW?
どうぶつえん
*ZOO
LOOK, MIEKO! AN ELEPHANT, RIGHT OVER THERE!
AND THOSE ARE ZEBRAS.
A WOMBAT.
A RED PANDA.

WHY DO I HAVE TO SPEND MY PRECIOUS DAYS OFF WITH A COUPLE OF KIDS...?
MUTTER MUTTER
CAN YOU SEE 'EM, MIEKO?
YES... I CAN.
MIEKO...YOU KNOW YOU CAN TALK TO US AS FRIENDS, RIGHT?
FRIENDS...?
SURE. JUST LIKE YOU WOULD WITH KIDS YOUR AGE...OR YOUR PARENTS.
REALLY? LIKE I'D TALK TO MY PARENTS?
わく わく
SURE.
WANT SOME ICE CREAM?
SURE!
PENGUINS
GO AHEAD...DIG IN.
WOW!

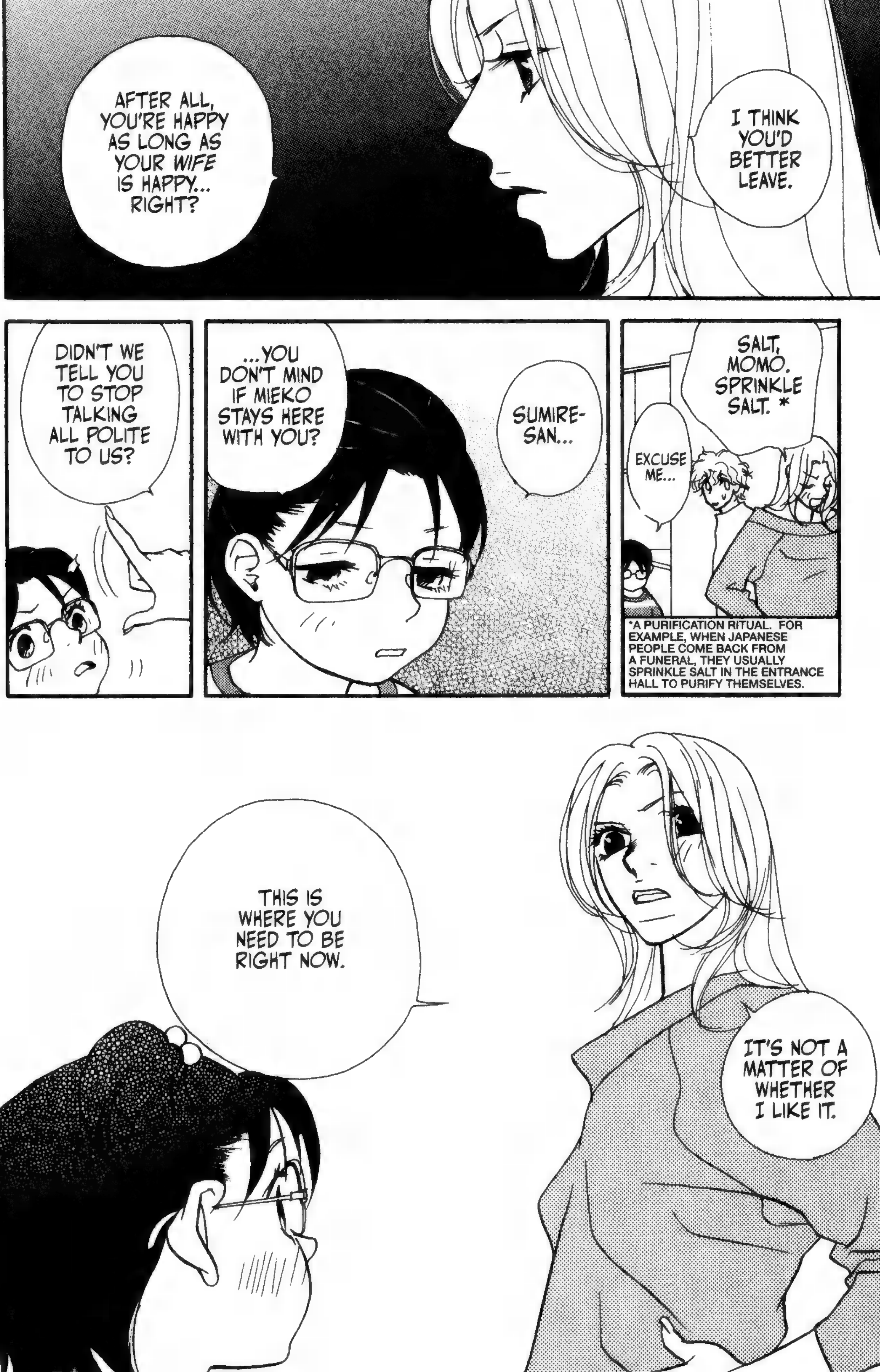
DELICIOUS!
DELICIOUS!
I...I'M CHOKING...!
M-ME, TOO ...!
YEAH, YEAH.
YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO HAVE A YOUNG HUSBAND!
ONE OF THEM WAS BAD ENOUGH...
SHEESH...
HUH?! HUSBAND...?!
MY DAUGHTER HAD HER SON LATE, SO NOW IT'S HARD FOR ME TO LOOK AFTER MY GRANDSON.
NOT SUMIRE'S LANDLADY
TAKE IT FROM ME... IF YOU WANT MORE KIDS...
HAVE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
WE LOOK LIKE A FAMILY...
...BUT NONE OF US ARE RELATED.
DER ★ ISL
STUFFED ANIMAL 500 YEN
DO YOU WANT A STUFFED ANIMAL?
UH... NOT REALLY...
DON'T BE SHY.
IT'S NO PROBLEM. I CAN BUY ONE FOR YOU.
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?

OKAPI, PLEASE!
WHO SAID I'D BUY ONE FOR YOU?
MALAY BAKU...
...HE EATS NIGHTMARES FOR ME...!
SHE'S CONFUSING HIM WITH ANOTHER FICTITIOUS TAPIR...
SOMETIMES SHE'S CUTE JUST LIKE OTHER KIDS!
MOMO ...?
MIEKO...
...DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO AMERICA.

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU WANNA BE, ISN'T THERE?
REALLY?
WHY NOT?
WELL... MOMMY SAYS I SHOULD BE A SCHOLAR.
BUT...
BUT SINCE YOU LOVE YOUR MOTHER, YOU CAN'T TELL HER NO.
WOW.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
I KNOW.
SEE, I RAN AWAY FROM HOME, TOO.
REALLY?
ARE MOMO'S PARENTS DIVORCED, TOO?
CHUCKLE
NO. BUT THEY DON'T GET ALONG.
FOR ONE THING, I HAVE FOUR SISTERS.
FOUR SISTERS?!
YUP. MY PARENTS MUST'VE REALLY WANTED A BOY.
MY MOTHER USED TO BE A BALLERINA, AND ALL MY SISTERS STUDIED BALLET.
SO NATURALLY I'VE BEEN DANCING SINCE I WAS LITTLE, TOO.
BUT MY FATHER WANTED ME TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS. HE WAS AGAINST ME TAKING BALLET.

I WASN'T REALLY EXCITED ABOUT ENTERING COMPETITIONS OR STUDYING OVERSEAS.
BUT I DID MY BEST ANYWAY, HOPING MY PARENTS WOULD GET ALONG ONCE MY TALENTS WERE RECOGNIZED.
MY PARENTS FOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME.
BALLET IS NO CAREER FOR A MAN!
YOU JUST DON'T RECOGNIZE HIS TALENT!
BEFORE I KNEW IT...
...I WAS COMPLETELY LOST. I HAD NO IDEA WHY I WAS DANCING.
OOPS... MUST'VE TALKED TOO MUCH.
I'LL TELL YOU THE REST ANOTHER TIME.
GOOD NIGHT...

NO!
I WANNA STAY HERE!
SO NOW YOU WANT TO TAKE HER HOME ALL OF A SUDDEN? WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?
AH, WELL... ACTUALLY...
...MY WIFE'S BEEN CALLING EVERY DAY... ASKING ABOUT OUR DAUGHTER.
IF SHE FOUND OUT I LEFT HER WITH YOU, SHE'D DEFINITELY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT...
ALL I NEED IS MORE TROUBLE DURING OUR DIVORCE ARBITRATION.
BUT YOU DON'T LIKE MIEKO TO BE WITH YOU!
SOME MEAN WOMAN COMES OVER AND BULLIES MIEKO AND KENTA!
Q-QUIET NOW, MIEKO...
...I SEE.
I SUPPOSE IT WOULD ALSO BE UNFAVORABLE IF THE DIVORCE ARBITRATORS DISCOVERED YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND.
UH...



I THINK YOU'D BETTER LEAVE.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE HAPPY AS LONG AS YOUR WIFE IS HAPPY... RIGHT?
SALT, MOMO. SPRINKLE SALT. *
EXCUSE ME...
*A PURIFICATION RITUAL. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN JAPANESE PEOPLE COME BACK FROM A FUNERAL, THEY USUALLY SPRINKLE SALT IN THE ENTRANCE HALL TO PURIFY THEMSELVES.
SUMIRE-SAN...
...YOU DON'T MIND IF MIEKO STAYS HERE WITH YOU?
DIDN'T WE TELL YOU TO STOP TALKING ALL POLITE TO US?
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF WHETHER I LIKE IT.
THIS IS WHERE YOU NEED TO BE RIGHT NOW.

THAT NIGHT...
MOMMY?
...LITTLE MIEKO TOLD AS MANY LIES TO HER MOTHER AS SHE NEEDED TO.
YES, MOMMY... I'M FINE.
FOR HER PARENTS' PEACE OF MIND...
DADDY TOOK ME TO THE ZOO TODAY.
UH-HUH. HE BOUGHT ME A BAKU STUFFED ANIMAL.
...AND THE SAKE OF HER HOME.
AND HE SLEEPS WITH ME AT NIGHT, SO I'M NOT LONELY.
NO, REALLY... I'M NOT LONELY...

THAT'S GOOD, MIEKO.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
WELL... INTERNATIONAL CALLS ARE EXPENSIVE. SO I'LL LET YOU GO.
BYE-BYE...
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, MIEKO.
SHE LOOKED A LITTLE EMBARRASSED...
...AND THEN SHE CRIED A BIT.

riiiiiiing
riiiiiiiiing
clack
HEL...
...MOM?
HEY--ONE QUESTION AT A TIME, OKAY?
I'M FINE.
YEAH--I HAVE A SHOW NEXT MONTH.
IT'S MODERN DANCE, THOUGH. I KNOW, NOT YOUR FAVORITE.
I'LL SEND YOU A FLYER. PLEASE...COME IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

YES.
I AM HAPPY NOW.
AND WITH THAT... SOME OF THE GLOOM BLEW OFF.
IF THERE'S NO WIND, YOU MAKE YOUR OWN.
THANKS FOR WAITING.
WHAT'D YOU GET?
I LOVE MY LIFE. SO HOW CAN I NOT APPRECIATE MY PARENTS?
A PINK DRESS, CRAYONS, AND STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE!
BUT WE ONLY HAVE FOUR DAYS LEFT WITH OUR LITTLE GIRL.
WE'RE GONNA PARTY EVERY DAY 'TIL YOUR MOM GETS BACK!
STAY TUNED FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

Rule22
CHERISHING YOUR MEMORIES

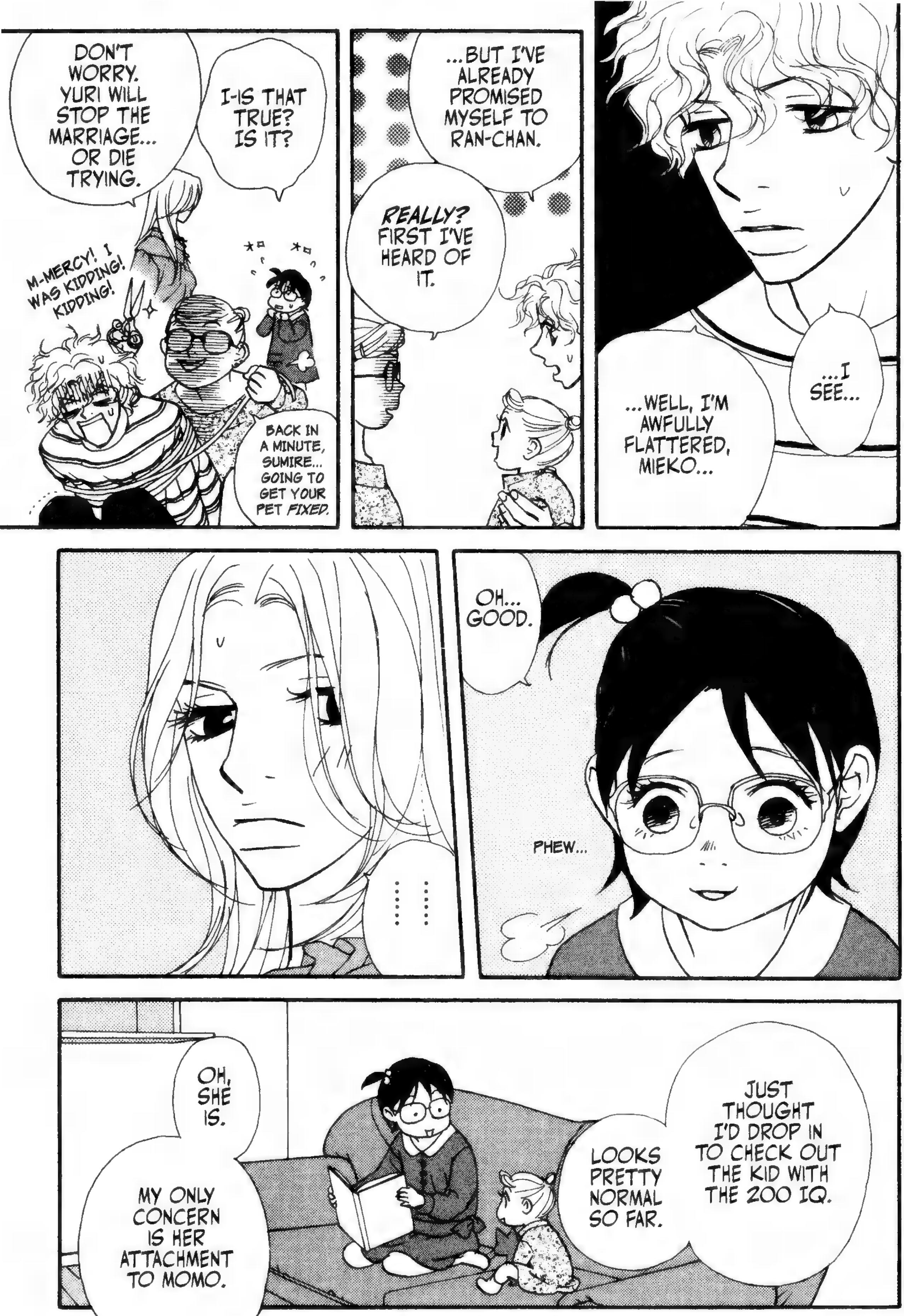
AH...
THEY'VE INVADED MY HOME.
...AH...
ACHOOOOO!
UGH...
WHERE'S MY MASK?
SNIFFLE...
GOOD MORNING...
MORNING...
OH! DID YOU FEED KENTA ALREADY?
UM, YEAH... SINCE YOU GUYS WEREN'T UP.
HE WAS SCRATCHING ON THAT DOOR FOR AN HOUR...

TWO LITTLE CREATURES HAVE SUDDENLY ENTERED MY LIFE.
...ALL I NEED IS A SCRATCHED-UP DOOR.
AND THE ONE WHO TOOK THOSE CREATURES IN... WAS MY PET.
I KNOW. HE SCRATCHED MY FACE, TOO.
THE NEWCOMERS' NAMES ARE MIEKO (A LITTLE GIRL) AND KENTA (A LITTLE CAT).
I GOT STUCK TAKING CARE OF THEM THIS WEEK, UNTIL MIEKO'S MOM GETS BACK FROM AMERICA.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KENTA? WAS SUMIRE MEAN TO YOU?
HOW DARE A FREELOADER LIKE YOU SAY SUCH A THING? HUH?
UGHHH...
STOP IT, SUMIRE. SHE'S JUST A KID.
MIEKO...
YES?
IF YOU DON'T WANNA BE A SCHOLAR... WHAT DO YOU WANNA BE?

A CARTOON WRITER.
EH!?
!?
C...
CARTOON ...? BUT...
DON'T YOU HAVE AN IQ OF 200? WHY NOT A POLITICIAN...OR AN ASTRONAUT?
...ARE YOU SURE THAT'S SUCH A GREAT IDEA?
WHY NOT?
WELL...SOME CARTOON WRITERS SUFFER FROM BLADDER CYSTITIS...AND, UH...HEMORRHOIDS. AND THEY, UH, LOSE A LOT OF FRIENDS. IN ADDITION, I'VE HEARD THEY HAVE A VERY LOW MARRIAGE RATE, WHEREAS THEIR DIVORCE RATE IS QUITE HIGH.
WHERE'D YOU LEARN ALL THAT?
UMM... A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME.
MOMO...
...YOU TALK JUST LIKE MY MOM.
WELL...
IT'S JUST THAT I THINK MIEKO HAS A WHOLE LOT OF POTENTIAL.
I MEAN, YOUR MOTHER'S JUST TRYING TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU.
BUT YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME FIGURING OUT WHAT YOU REALLY WANNA DO.
AND OF COURSE YOU CAN BECOME A CARTOON WRITER--EVEN IF YOU DO END UP GOING TO SCHOOL IN AMERICA.

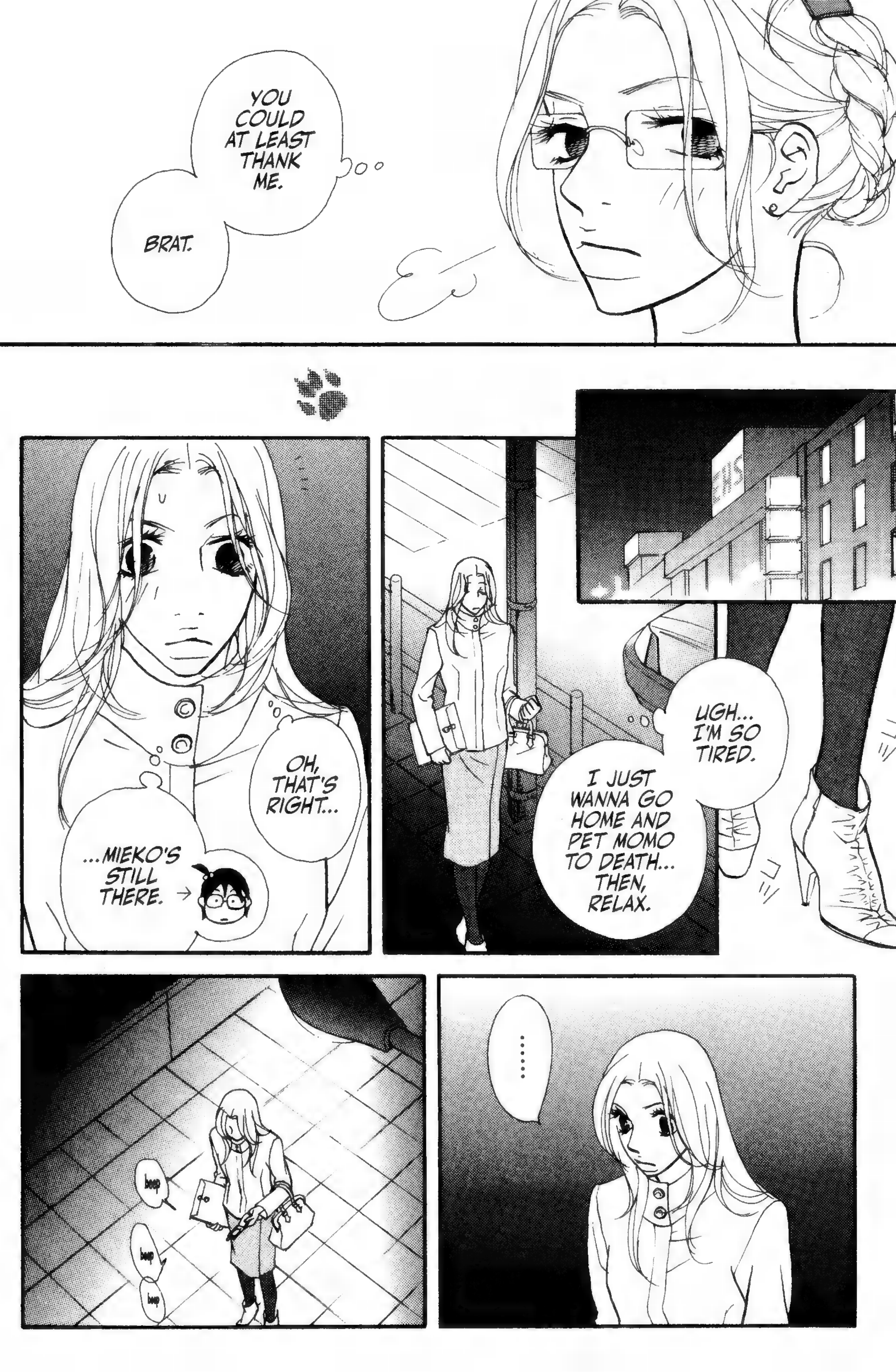
I DON'T THINK I TOOK ANY DETOURS TO GET HERE.
BUT ALL MY OTHER EXPERIENCES HELPED ME TO GET WHERE I AM NOW.
AFTER ALL...IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO THAT I FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT I REALLY WANNA DO.
UMINO MODERN DANCE STUDIO
I'VE NEVER USED A CELL PHONE BEFORE.
REALLY?
I DON'T USE IT MUCH, EITHER.
SUMIRE MAKES ME CARRY IT.
BY THE WAY--CAN YOU HANG ONTO THIS FOR ME?
WOW.
A REAL CELL PHONE!
WELL, I GOTTA GO CHANGE. YOU STAY HERE, OKAY?
OKAY.

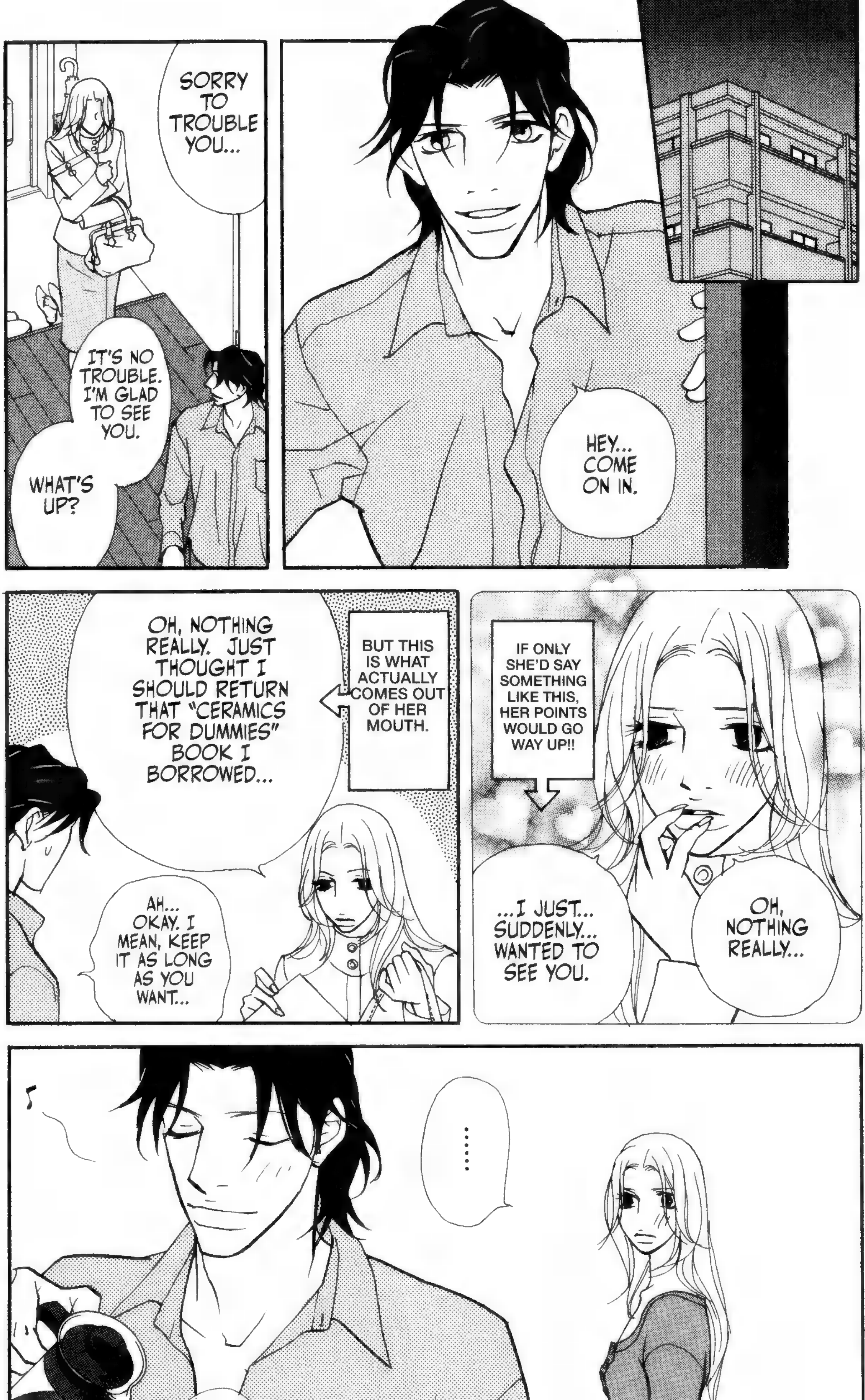
clap
clap
clap
WHAT IS... THAT?
OH. TAKESHI BROUGHT HER HERE.
WHEN MIEKO GROWS UP...
...SHE WANTS TO BE MOMO'S WIFE.


...I SEE...
...WELL, I'M AWFULLY FLATTERED, MIEKO...
...BUT I'VE ALREADY PROMISED MYSELF TO RAN-CHAN.
REALLY? FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.
I-IS THAT TRUE? IS IT?
DON'T WORRY. YURI WILL STOP THE MARRIAGE... OR DIE TRYING.
M-MERCY! I WAS KIDDING! KIDDING!
BACK IN A MINUTE, SUMIRE... GOING TO GET YOUR PET *FIXED*.
OH... GOOD.
PHEW...
......
JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP IN TO CHECK OUT THE KID WITH THE 200 IQ.
LOOKS PRETTY NORMAL SO FAR.
OH, SHE IS.
MY ONLY CONCERN IS HER ATTACHMENT TO MOMO.

I DUNNO.
TO ME, IT LOOKS LIKE...
...SHE'S PRETENDING TO BE FINE.
......?
かき かき かき
WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING?
びくっ
YOU CAN'T SEE!
OVER HER DEAD BODY
死守ッ
OKAY... FINE. IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL...
YOUR HAIR'S COMING LOOSE, THOUGH.
HERE-- LET ME FIX IT FOR YOU.

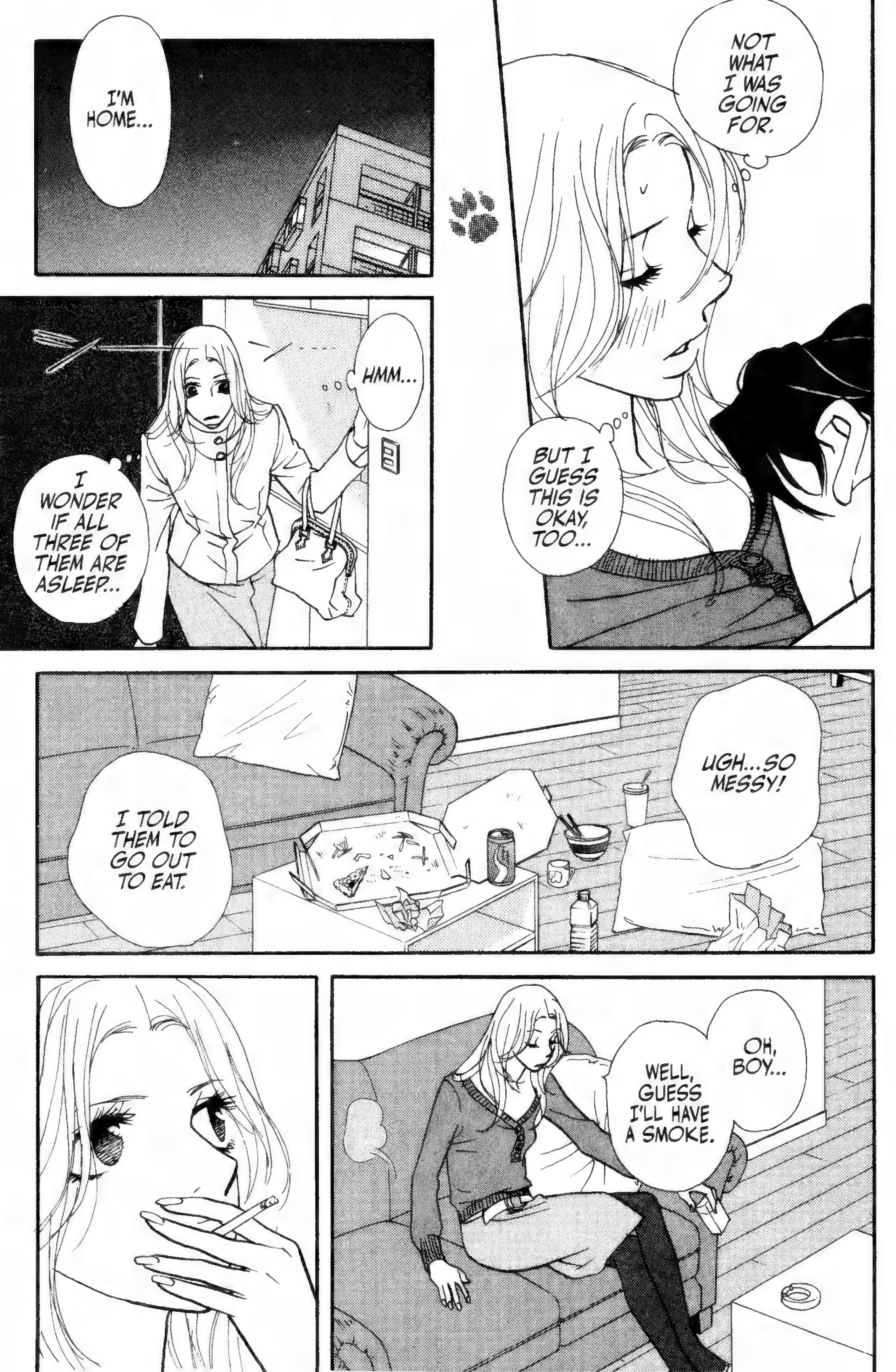
KIDS' HAIR IS SO SOFT AND SMOOTH...
MIEKO... COME HERE.
MIEKO.
MOMMY.
MOMMY...?
THERE YOU GO.
はっ
ダッ
HEY-- WHAT'S WITH YOU?

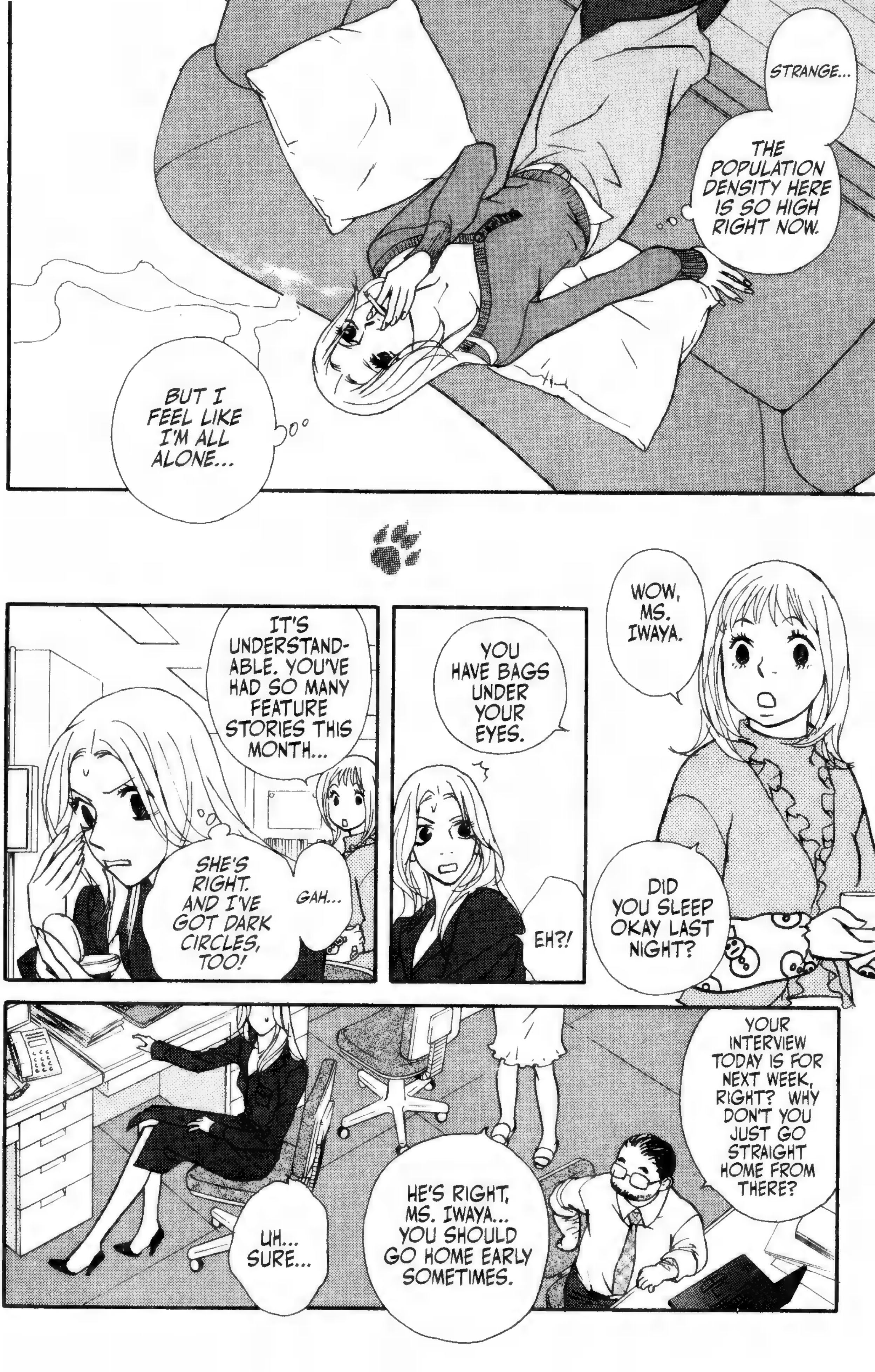

YOU COULD AT LEAST THANK ME.
BRAT.
UGH... I'M SO TIRED.
I JUST WANNA GO HOME AND PET MOMO TO DEATH... THEN, RELAX.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
...MIEKO'S STILL THERE.
beep
beep
beep
......



HEY... COME ON IN.
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU...
IT'S NO TROUBLE. I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU.
WHAT'S UP?
IF ONLY SHE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS, HER POINTS WOULD GO WAY UP!!
OH, NOTHING REALLY...
...I JUST... SUDDENLY... WANTED TO SEE YOU.
BUT THIS IS WHAT ACTUALLY COMES OUT OF HER MOUTH.
OH, NOTHING REALLY. JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD RETURN THAT "CERAMICS FOR DUMMIES" BOOK I BORROWED...
AH... OKAY. I MEAN, KEEP IT AS LONG AS YOU WANT...
......

WELL, UH...
EXCUSE ME... WOULD IT BE OKAY IF...?
HUH?
ギュー
ナデ ナデ
OH, WELL...
←...IT'S JUST DIFFERENT, I GUESS...
Differences:
•Bigger than Momo
•Hair isn't fluffy
•Something else she can't put her finger on
MS. IWAYA...
EH?


NOT WHAT I WAS GOING FOR.
BUT I GUESS THIS IS OKAY, TOO...
I'M HOME...
HMM...
I WONDER IF ALL THREE OF THEM ARE ASLEEP...
UGH...SO MESSY!
I TOLD THEM TO GO OUT TO EAT.
OH, BOY...
WELL, GUESS I'LL HAVE A SMOKE.


STRANGE...
THE POPULATION DENSITY HERE IS SO HIGH RIGHT NOW.
BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M ALL ALONE...
WOW, MS. IWAYA.
DID YOU SLEEP OKAY LAST NIGHT?
YOU HAVE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES.
EH?!
IT'S UNDERSTAND-ABLE. YOU'VE HAD SO MANY FEATURE STORIES THIS MONTH...
SHE'S RIGHT. AND I'VE GOT DARK CIRCLES, TOO!
GAH...
YOUR INTERVIEW TODAY IS FOR NEXT WEEK, RIGHT? WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO STRAIGHT HOME FROM THERE?
HE'S RIGHT, MS. IWAYA... YOU SHOULD GO HOME EARLY SOMETIMES.
UH... SURE...

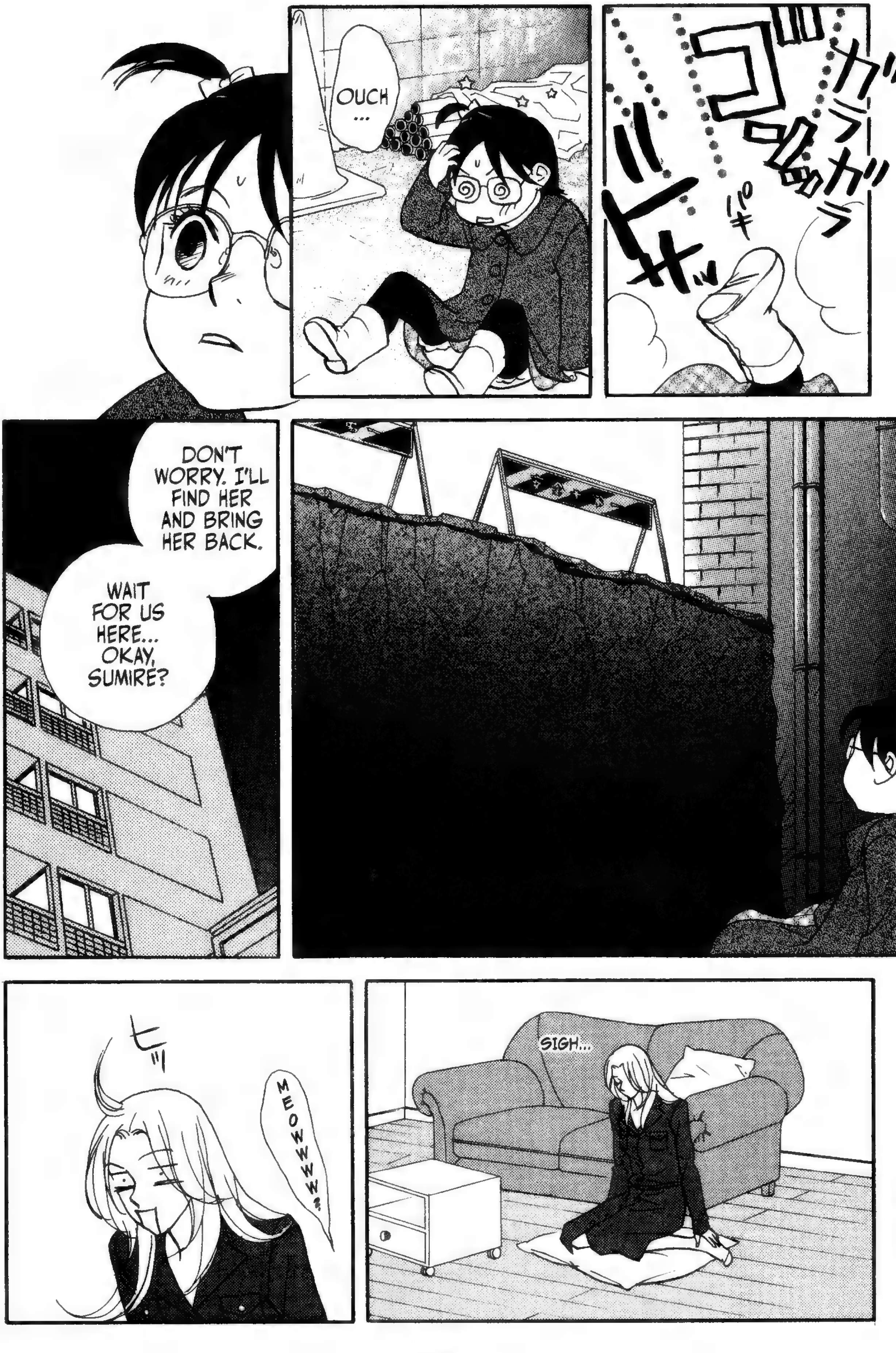
THEY DON'T KNOW...
...I CAN'T EVEN RELAX AT HOME.
トホホ
GREAT. TORN DRAPES...
...PUKE ON MY LAUNDRY...
MIEKO.
びく
DIDN'T YOU PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF THAT CAT?
HE'S NOT "THAT CAT." HIS NAME IS KENTA.
THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.

DIDN'T I ALSO TELL YOU NOT TO LET THE CAT OUT OF THE ROOM?
MOMO SAID IT WAS OKAY!
SLAP
OOPS.
UNH...
UNHH...
MIEKO...!

ズキ
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
SUMIRE...
...I HIT...
...SUCH A LITTLE GIRL..
badump
badump
ぎゅっ
I'D BETTER GO AFTER HER...
YEAH.
BUT REMEMBER... YOUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS YOU.

pet pet
WAS I ACTUALLY JEALOUS OF HER?
BECAUSE I COULDN'T MONOPOLIZE MOMO ANYMORE?
WHAT AN IMMATURE THING TO DO!
flutter
!

グラッ
WHOA--!



パキ
OUCH ...
DON'T WORRY. I'LL FIND HER AND BRING HER BACK.
WAIT FOR US HERE... OKAY, SUMIRE?
SIGH...
ヒッ
MEOWWWW?

W...
WHAT? WHAT IS IT...?
DON'T COME OVER HERE.
I HAVE ALLERGIES, OKAY...?
PURRPURR...
I'M SORRY, MIEKO.
...AHHH...

AAAACHHOOOO!
EXCUSE ME.
EXCUSE ME!
ANYONE UP THERE?
UGH.
EGGHH!
SIGH...
...NOTHING WORKS...

RRRR...
WAIT. MOMO'S CELL PHONE...!
MOMO?
OH...YOU HAVEN'T FOUND HER YET?
NOT YET. BUT I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING.
I ASKED MIEKO TO KEEP MY CELL PHONE WITH HER!
AND I DON'T THINK THE BATTERY'S DEAD YET. WHY DON'T YOU TRY CALLING IT?
I DON'T REMEMBER THE NUMBER MYSELF.
OKAY... I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
!
MIEKO?!
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

MIEKO?
I'M COMING DOWN FOR YOU, OKAY?
安全第一
ARE--
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! WHY DID YOU GO DOWN THERE?

MOMMY...
...MOMMYYYY...
MIEKO...
SEE... SUMIRE SMELLS NICE.
AND IT REMINDED MIEKO OF HER MOTHER.

SO MIEKO HAD CONDTIONED HERSELF TO DEPEND ON SUMIRE.
YOUR REAL MOTHER'S COMING TO GET YOU TOMORROW... BUT YOU CAN LEAN ON ME AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TONIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
HER BOOBIES MAY NOT BE AS BIG AS YOUR MOM'S, BUT YOU CAN PRETEND THEY ARE.
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?
HEH, HEH. STILL...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SLEEPING LIKE THIS...
ME, TOO.
ME, TOO.
IT'S LIKE... WE'RE A FAMILY...
YEAH...
THE NEXT DAY...
...MIEKO WENT WITH KENTA TO MEET HER MOTHER.

BUT SHE DID LEAVE US WITH THE MEMORY OF EIGHT FUN DAYS.
SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA-- SIX YEARS LATER
MIE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU GOT ON YOUR REPORT FOR WALLACE'S CLASS?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?! THERE'S NO WAY MIE'S GETTING A BAD GRADE!
TSK. IT AIN'T EASY, BEING BEATEN ALL THE TIME BY A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD.
HEH, HEH.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, ANYWAY?
YEAH-- YOU'RE ALWAYS TAKING THAT PIECE OF PAPER OUT OF YOUR FOLDER.

IT'S A DRAWING I MADE WHEN I WAS SIX.
SUMIRE
MOMO
MIEKO
KENTA
AWW... CUTE!
IS THAT YOUR FAMILY?
YES.
MY PRECIOUS FAMILY... IF ONLY IN MY MIND.
I WONDER IF SUMIRE AND MOMO STILL LIVE THERE.
I WAS SO LITTLE, I FIGURED THEY'D BE THERE FOREVER. SO I DIDN'T BOTHER ASKING FOR THEIR ADDRESS.
BUT I THINK MAYBE THEY STILL ARE THERE...
MOMO
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE END

MA-CHAN GOES FOR IT! ④

OGAWA VERSION

MA-CHAN'S REBUTTAL:
IT'S NOT ACTUALLY A REBUTTAL, 'CAUSE MY ROOM REALLY IS DIRTY AND MESSY. ALTHOUGH I DID RECONSIDER MY LIFE LAST NEW YEAR'S AND STARTED SEPARATING THE TRASH AND THE RECYCLING...AT LEAST, THAT *WAS* MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION...

YAYOI DRAWN BY MA-CHAN. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HER AT ALL.

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CHECK IT!

OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF YAYOI OGAWA

EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP

HTTP://WWW.LINKCLUB.OR.JP/~ASASIN/

You're My Pet 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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